

Calais Cemetery Commission Meeting Minutes

April 26, 2017

Town Clerk's Office

Present: John Simanskas, Juanita Nunn, Randy Koch, Denise Wheeler (chair Calais Selectboard), Donna Fitch (Calais Town Treasurer), Wyatt Healy (sexton) and James Barlow (Town attorney)

John called the meeting to order at 7:10.

Minutes of the February 22, 2016 Commissioners' meeting were reviewed and approved.

Endowment: Balance as of Apr 26: \$ 132,271.37.

Green Burial Bill H.3: (to amend state statutes to allow a minimum 3 ½ foot burial depth) was passed by both House and Senate. It now goes to the Governor for his signature.

Employment status of cemetery workers: the bulk of the meeting was concerned with new state regulations and whether Wyatt and his crew qualify as town employees or independent contractors. As employees they are covered under the towns liability and workers comp insurance, have taxes withheld, and income reported to the IRS on ordinary W2 forms. As independent contractors they supply and maintain their own equipment and have income reported to the IRS on 1099 forms. At this time they are a little of both.

Atty Barlow's legal opinion was that this arrangement is fine as long as it is formalized in various ways: the town must provide a job description including starting and ending points for the season. Each year the town must provide a hiring letter specifying what equipment will be hired and at what hourly rate. Time sheets must be submitted at set intervals documenting the type of equipment and dates of use. Atty Barlow kindly offered to expedite drawing up job description, hiring letters and time sheets so that work can start in a few days under the new regime.

Children's (Bliss) Cemetery The suggestion was made to aim at setting up a work day for restoring this little-known Calais cemetery where the majority of those buried were children under 18 yrs old, probably victims of epidemic.

Meeting adjourned at 8:15.

Cemetery Commission meets on the 4th Wednesday of the month in summer and bi-monthly thereafter.

Next meeting Wednesday, May 24, 2017

7 PM

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Respectfully submitted,

Randy Koch (April 30, 2016)