

Clayton County Pioneer Cemetery Commission
Meeting: June 08, 2024

The meeting was called to order shortly after 9:00 a.m. at the Elkader Genealogy Office.

Attending the meeting were Chairperson Lee Embretson and commission members Ellen Collins, David Beck and Bruce Collins. Commission member Sue Meyer was unable to attend. Also, friend of the commission, Frank Phippen, attended our meeting for part of the time.

Agenda and Minutes

After a brief review, Chairperson Lee Embretson asked if there were any changes or corrections to the agenda for this meeting or the minutes from our last meeting. There being none, David Beck made motions to accept them as presented; Ellen Collins seconded the motions and the motions passed.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Bruce Collins said for the county funds there was one disbursement for \$99.91 since the report at our last meeting and the remaining balance is now \$1,034.88. For the commission's funds at Freedom Bank the balance remains \$1,470.64; there being no activity with this account since the last report.

Related to bills presented for approval by the commission, Bruce Collins presented reimbursement requests totaling \$187.30, which included reimbursement for the Noggle sign and installation as well as mileage reimbursement for pioneer cemetery related travel.

David Beck made a motion to pay these requests, Lee Embretson seconded the requests, the motions passed unanimously.

Lee Embreston presented a request for mileage reimbursement for pioneer cemetery related travel totaling \$18.34. Ellen Collins made a motion to pay this bill, David Beck seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

A discussion was then had related to the work done by Monumental Restoration, which included retrieving gravestones, cleaning and restoring gravestones, surveying and locating burial sites and preparing reports for and on behalf of our commission. A motion was made by David Beck to pay Monumental Restoration \$800.00 for their work. Ellen Collins seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Barnum Cemetery

Lee Embretson said he is having some discussion with the county engineer related to putting in a driveway to the Barnum Cemetery off of the county road, Grouse Ave, which is adjacent to the cemetery. More discussion and followup is needed.

Lee Embretson also said that Trace Bolsinger from Hertz Management, who manages the property for the landowners on which the Barnum Cemetery is located, has fence posts for the cemetery fence that were donated, and is working on getting wire fencing material.

Related to grass seeding, Lee Embretson said that Bruce Glawe seeded the cemetery space with forb flowering grass seed on June 5th or 6th. Mr. Glawe said this seeding was a donation on his part as part

of the Pheasants Forever Program, so no payment was requested.
(*Thank you, thank you Mr. Glawe.*)

As discussed at previous meetings, there was/is a concern by the landowners of Barnum Cemetery and our commission that this cemetery space be permanently designated as a cemetery so it does not revert to another use sometime in the future. In that regard, Mel Pins from Monumental Restoration drafted an easement agreement for this. Related to that easement agreement draft, Chairperson Embretson asked Bruce Collins to have our county attorney, Zach Herrmann, review it. Zach Herrmann did review the easement draft and wrote the following:

“I’ve reviewed the easement agreement and I think it’s well-written and addresses everyone’s concerns and desires. I cleaned up the formatting and some typos and have attached it here to this e-mail. If it looks good to all the parties, have it signed and recorded.”

This updated easement agreement was given to Lee Embretson for his signature and for follow-up with Hertz Management and the landowners for their signatures.

There was a discussion related to making a metal fabricated sign for the Barnum Cemetery similar to those made for other pioneer cemeteries in the past. Ellen Collins is to do research and follow-up related to doing this and will contact Zach Marmann to see if he would do this.

Meenan Cemetery

At our April 13, 2024 meeting a motion was made and passed to have the fabricated sign at the Meenan Pioneer Cemetery located in

Volga Twp. straightened and painted by Zach Marmann. At this meeting Ellen Collins reported that work has not yet been done.

Ellen Collins said she spoke with JoAnn Fishel, who is an ancestor of the Meenan Family, about what history she knew about her ancestors. Also David Beck retrieved obituary information related to three members of that family. Bruce Collins will prepare a draft for a sign to place in the cemetery containing information about those buried there.

(The Fishel Family has no objections to having a sign with a brief family history placed in this cemetery.)

The Hartman Cemetery

Discouraging information was received from Myra Voss, a long time member of this commission, about the removal of wrought iron fencing from the Hartman Pioneer Cemetery located in Cox Creek Twp. along Grandview Rd. That fencing was replaced with panel fencing similar to that used in cattle corrals. Myra Voss contacted the county sheriff's office about this. A sheriff's report was filed. This matter was discussed at this meeting and our commission decided not to pursue it. The cemetery space is mowed and maintained, but all agreed that it does not look as historic and elegant as it did before this fencing downgrade.

Noggle Pioneer Cemetery

The sign for the Noggle Pioneer Cemetery in Mallory Twp. near Colesburg, which was approved to have made at our April 14th meeting, was made and was installed on May 15th by Bruce and Ellen Collins with the assistance of Charles Jaster.

Other Pioneer Cemeteries

There was some discussion related to the Griffith/Graham Cemetery in Millville Twp. and well as the Meyer Cemetery in Cox Creek Twp. There are some gravestones for Griffith/Graham that Monumental Restoration is working on to clean and restore. More commission follow-up work is to be done with these sites.

The next meeting is scheduled for July 13th.

Bruce Collins
Secretary/Treasurer