

Clayton County Pioneer Cemetery Commission
Meeting: August 17, 2024

The monthly 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 David Beck, Ellen Collins and Bruce Collins. In addition Sarah Gunderson from Monumental Restoration was in attendance.

Agenda

The agenda for the meeting was presented. A motion was made by Ellen Collins to accept the agenda as presented. The motion was seconded by David Beck and passed unanimously.

Minutes

The chairperson asked if everyone reviewed the minutes from our last meeting and if there were any additions or corrections. Everyone read the minutes and there being no additions or corrections, David Beck made a motion to accept the minutes as presented, Ellen Collins seconded the motion; the motion passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Bruce Collins said that at the start of the fiscal new year on July 01st the county had again budgeted \$2,000 for our commission and there being no expenditures processed since the start of the fiscal year, the balance remains \$2,000 at this time.

The commission's bank balance at Freedom Bank remains the same as reported last month--\$1,510.64, there being no activity with this account since our last meeting.

Old Business

Related to the easement for the Barnum Cemetery, Lee Embretson said he signed the easement agreement on behalf of our commission and has given it to Trace Bolsinger from Hertz Management for the land owners to sign. That is the status on this at this time.

Related to having a driveway installed accessing Barnum Cemetery off the adjacent county road, Lee Embretson said he is still in discussion with the county engineer about this.

At our last meeting a motion was made and passed to install fencing along the roadway perimeter of the cemetery space of the Barnum Cemetery and the commission members were to bring to this meeting ideas for the type of fencing to install. In that regard, at this meeting a number of ideas were presented and pictures shown of various fencing designs, but no decisions were made. Lee Embretson is going to check with Meuser Lumber on the availability and pricing for a type of wire fencing he described and is going to bring that information to our next meeting.

Other Business

The next order of business was Sarah Gunderson's presentation related to her work on the Barnum Cemetery and the genealogy of those buried there. The goal is to have the gravestones grouped by family—husband, wife, children, etc.

The target time is have the gravestones repaired and the plans made for placement for a November installation at the Barnum Cemetery.

Next, David Beck gave a presentation related to the Winkowitsch Pioneer Cemetery in Farmersburg Township that he recently visited. He cleaned the gravestones while there and at this meeting told about those buried there.

Related to the Meenan sign discussed at our last meeting, the revisions discussed at that time were made and a revised draft was presented at this meeting. The price quoted for an 18 x 24 aluminum sign is \$105.00. David Beck made a motion to have the sign made with one minor correction. Bruce Collins seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Ellen Collins said at the Meenan Cemetery the metal fabricated sign that was removed from the cemetery for repair and painting by Zach Marmann still has not yet been returned to the cemetery. Ellen to follow up.

There was a brief discussion related to clearing up some confusion about Griffith and Graham Pioneer Cemeteries in Millville Township. The Graham Cemetery never existed—it was never plotted out and no burials are there. On the Griffith Cemetery, it is hard to get to and overgrown; Frank Phippen has 3 or 4 gravestones from there stored at the Elkader Eastside Cemetery shed.

The next meeting was set for September 14th at 9:00 a.m. with the possibility of making that meeting a visit to the Wolf Cemetery on Linda Hauschild's property.

This meeting was adjourned at 10:55 a.m.

Bruce Collins
Secretary/Treasurer