

Clayton County Pioneer Cemetery Commission
Meeting: October 12, 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. Also attending the meeting was friend of the commission Sara Gunderson from Monumental Restoration.

Agenda and Minutes

Chairperson Lee Embretson asked if the agenda for this meeting was acceptable. There being no changes, David Beck made a motion to accept the agenda. Ellen Collins seconded the motion and the motion passed.

Next Lee asked about the minutes from the previous meeting. Since everyone had 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 and the motion passed.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Bruce Collins reported that on the county funds one disbursement has been made for \$172.14 reimbursing Bruce Collins for expenses incurred with the Meenan sign. This expense was approved for payment by the commission at our Sept meeting. The balance remaining of county funds is \$1,827.86 and the balance for the commission's funds at Freedom Bank remains the same as reported last month: \$2,010.64.

David Beck made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report as presented. Ellen Collins seconded the motion and the motion passed.

Old Business

Lee reported that he has not received back the easement agreement on Barnum Cemetery nor has had any correspondence with Trace Bolsinger from Hertz Management related to this matter. Lee reported at our August meeting that he signed the agreement on behalf of our commission and had given it to Trace for his follow-up with the owners. During the meeting Lee placed a call to Trace and left a message regarding the status of the easement.

At our July meeting a motion was passed to install fencing along the county road side of the Barnum Cemetery. It was latter decided by the commission to install a particular kind of fencing, a decorative but sturdy wire fencing. Lee checked with Mesuer Lumber and was advised this type of fencing was not in stock and would need to be ordered.

There was some discussion related to having David Palas, a person that has a business installing fencing, install the fencing, and possibly also have him order the fencing, take delivery of the fencing, and install the fencing without any of our commission members getting involved with this process except for authorizing and approving that this be done.

It was the general consensus that before the commission does any more work related to ordering fencing that Lee receive back the signed easement agreement from the owners, or get some sense that the owners are still okay with the commission doing the work we plan on doing at this site---the Barnum Cemetery site. Lee to follow-up on this.

Lee checked the Barnum site related to needing mowing and he said it looks okay at this time—no more mowing this season is needed.

Related to placing a driveway off of Grouse Ave to access the Barnum Cemetery, Lee reported that the county has delivered plenty of dirt and fill to this site for that purpose and he would ask Tyler Carlson to grade and level that dirt for a drive.

Sarah Gunderson from Monumental Restoration said she wants to do more work finding gravestones at Barnum, and the fall and early spring seasons are a good time for doing that after and before the plant growing season. Hopefully the gravestone installation process can get going next spring.

Related to the Meenan Cemetery, at our April meeting a motion was passed to have Zach Marmann remove and paint the metal fabricated sign for this cemetery. Zach has removed the sign from the cemetery—but--Ellen reported it still has not yet been returned.

A discussion took place about a visit to the Wolf Cemetery on Sept 24th by David Beck, Bruce and Ellen Collins, and Myra Voss on the farm of Linda Hauschild. Pictures were shown of a sturdy gravestone for two Wolf children buried there. The burial site is in the woods maybe a quarter of a mile back of Linda Hauschild's farm buildings and house accessible by a dirt roadway along the edge of a corn field.

Ellen Collins again expressed her desire to have 911 addresses placed by pioneer cemeteries, which would make it much easier to locate these sites. *(This subject was first noted at our June 2023 meeting.)* Ellen will follow-up with Sue Meyers to contact the appropriate county people to see if doing this could happen.

Bruce Collins presented a draft for a sign for the Winkowitsch Cemetery containing limited information about those buried there. David Beck is going to see if he can find more information that can possibly be placed on such a sign before it is produced.

Also David Beck is going to do research related to the Shori Pioneer Cemetery in Marion Township for a sign to be placed there. Our commission has done work on the gravestones there several times in the past.

Related to the Railroad/Chinese Cemetery in Giard Township, there has been some confusion as to it's exact location. David Beck and Sue Meyer have determined where the location is; it may be a possible location for a commission visit.

Our next meeting is scheduled for Nov 16th.

At 10:40 a. m. David Beck made a motion to adjourn. Bruce Collins seconded the motion and the motion passed.

Bruce Collins
Secretary/Treasurer