

Clayton County Pioneer Cemetery Commission
Meeting: Nov 09, 2024

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

In attendance were Chairperson Lee Embretson and commission members Sue Meyer, David Beck, Bruce Collins and Ellen Collins.

Agenda and Minutes

Chairperson Lee Embretson asked if there were any changes or additions to the agenda for this meeting. There were none; David Beck made a motion to accept the agenda and Ellen Collins seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Chairperson Lee Embretson asked if everyone read the minutes from the previous meeting; they had. He then asked if there were any additions or correction, and there being none, 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 reported that there was no activity since our last meeting, so the balances remain the same as reported then. The county funds balance is \$1,827.86, and the Freedom Bank balance is \$2,010.64.

Bruce Collins said a bill was received from Brian Thiese for \$400.00 for mowing the Borcharding Cemetery this year. *(This mowing has been done for many years by this person for this amount and our commission as routinely approved the billing for payment.)* Sue Meyer made a motion to pay this bill; Ellen Collins seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Old Business

Related to the status of the easement agreement for the Barnum Cemetery, Lee Embretson said he has spoken with the Coulters, the owners of this property, about it, and they are having their attorney review it.

It was the consensus of our commission that no work should take place at this site related to installing fencing, placing gravestones or other structural work until there is firm approval by the owners for this to be done within a certain space.

On the status of the driveway access to Barnum Cemetery, Lee Embretson said the county delivered the fill to the site and Knospe leveled and graded it, so the site is now directly accessible by a pickup or similar vehicle off the county road.

Sign—Barnum Cemetery—at our commission meeting May 13, 2023 a motion was passed to have a sign made for this cemetery. The size and wording on the sign were approved with that motion, and that sign was made, but not installed. Since then updates are needed for that sign to be more current/correct. Rather than discard the sign it was suggested to add a smaller sign attached at the bottom of this sign reading as follows:

Addition to Above

In 2024 more gravestones were found from this site

The CCPCC also extends much appreciation to Joyce Coulter, the co-owner of this property, for her support of this restoration.

A motion was made by David Beck to get a quote on a price for having a sign made with the above wording. Sue Meyer seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Related to the Meenan metal fabricated sign that Zach Marman removed from the cemetery for repair, Ellen Collins reported that she spoke with Zach Marman and he is waiting for some new letters to be made for this sign by a metal working shop in Wadena.

On having 911 addresses for pioneer cemeteries, Sue Meyer will be checking with the appropriate county people to see if there is any possibility for this to be done, maybe on a piecemeal basis. Our commission is aware that there is an expense involved with doing this, but having a 911 address would make finding these sites much easier.

The Railroad/Chinese Cemetery in Giard Township was again discussed as to its location. On one of the cemetery lists the legal address was given as follows:

SEC 21 SW/SW Giard Twp 91.314/43.031

This address was helpful in possibly locating this burial site for a future on site visit by our commission members and maybe identifying the site with a sign at that location.

Signage for the Winkowitsch in Farmersburg Twp and Shori in Marion Twp Cemeteries were again discussed as well as for the Watkins Cemetery near Osborne in Cox Creek Twp. As was noted in our October meeting, a draft for a sign for the Winkowitsch Cemetery was presented at that time however the information on that draft was sparse. Subsequent to this meeting David Beck was able to find more information related to this cemetery and Bruce Collins will work on a new draft for a sign.

The Shori and Watkins Cemeteries are still in the beginning stages for signage with more research information needed.

On the search for more gravestones at the Barnum Cemetery site and the restoration of the Barnum gravestones, there is nothing new to report since our October meeting when Sarah Gunderson said she was going to do more gravestone searching this fall and early next spring, after and before the plant growing season.

Next meeting: It was the consensus of the commission to not have a meeting in December, with our next meeting tentatively scheduled for the second Saturday in January.

At 10:30 a. m. Sue Meyer made a motion to adjourn; Ellen Collins seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Bruce Collins
Sec/Treasurer
CCPCC