

MEETING MINUTES – August 8, 2013

The Des Moines County Pioneer Cemetery Commission held a meeting in the Old Danville Cemetery as part of a work session on August 8, 2013. The Old Danville Cemetery is located in Danville, IA. The work session started at 5:30. The Chairman, Herb Price, called the formal portion of the meeting to order at about 6:10 pm. Commission members present were: Mike Allen, Paul French, Alan Mohr, Herb Price, Steve Stoller, & Fred Wetzel. No associate members were present. The contractor, Allen Gugeler and his son, who is in the process of resetting the gravestones at the cemetery attended.

Public Input: Joy Lynn Conwell & her husband who are very interested in the cemetery and have made major contributions were present and made several suggestions.

Approval of the Agenda: No changes. Stand approved.

Approval of the March 20, 2013 meeting minutes: No corrections. Stand approved.

Note: No meetings were held in April, May, June or July.

Communications: None

Old Business:

- A. Allen Gugeler contract approval – For record purposes only a contract with Allen Gugeler was approved by email votes received 31 May through 1 June of 2013. The contract is for resetting several gravestones and providing display pads for mounting a majority of the stones. This arrangement is based on proposals made by Fred Wetzel on January 7, 2013 and April 7, 2013. The bid for 2-foot deep bases with postholes in the amount of \$5,600.00 was accepted with the understanding that if Mr. Lippert limits access an additional \$1,000.00 would be required.
- B. Display location of gravestones in the Old Danville Cemetery – Fred Wetzel distributed the proposed drawings and gravestone listings, which Allen Gugeler is using for the layout. These had been sent to all members by email several weeks ago. A suggested placement in the cemetery was agreed to and flagged. The south side of the layout will start at 22 feet from the south fence line. The east side will start 64 feet from the east fence line. Steve Stoller suggested we arrange for a minimum of 7 feet between the pads and if possible all of the stones. Fred Wetzel agreed to develop another drawing showing the major dimensions of the layout. Note: A drawing showing the major dimensions, reviewed by the commission members by email, was sent to Allen Gugeler on August 16, 2013.
- C. Memorial for the Old Danville Cemetery –
 1. Proposed single engraved stone or plaque – There was quite a bit of discussion about a memorial plaque or engraved stone. At least a week prior Fred Wetzel had made a proposal for mounting a cast bronze plaque 15” high x 24” wide mounted on a concrete pedestal. Fred had obtained a quote for a plaque with only the family names from a firm in FL at a cost of about \$1,400.00 Several wondered if the size of the proposed plaque is large enough to easily read the names, etc. Both Steve Stoller and Joy Lynn Conwell will investigate other approaches for a memorial display. Paul French suggested we look into outside funding from the community. This would give the donors some ownership of the restoration.

2. Proposal for weather protected sign describing the cemetery history – Herb Price suggested we not consider this at this time. If some other organization would like to provide such a display the commission would consider.
 3. Possible Boy Scout participation – This has been discussed before. It is our understanding we cannot ask the boy scouts or a scout to take on any projects. If one of the scouts were interested we would sure welcome their involvement.
 4. Funding a memorial (Joy Lynn Conwell has \$100.00 set aside for the memorial) – It was suggested that we should not solicit outside funding but would accept donations to defer the cost of the restoration activities. Joy Lynn will be giving a presentation, August 24th, on the history of the Old Danville Cemetery. At that time she may make suggestions for donations toward the restoration. We will accept any money Joy raises and it will be directed appropriately. Motion to proceed on this basis was made by Paul French. Seconded by Alan Mohr. Motion passed.
 5. Investigate funding through a SAPIC grant - No further action at this time. Herb Price will continue to investigate.
- D. Fence repair and cleanup at the Porter Cemetery – For record purposes only the fence was repaired and minor cleanup performed on 6/4/13. Cutting brush along the fence line should be done this fall. Mike Allen has volunteered.
 - E. Sign installation, fence repair & minor restoration at Schilb/Bolick – For record purposes only the sign was replaced (Spelling error), rear and left side fence bracing at the corners was corrected, and minor restoration was completed on 4/25/13 & 6/18/13.
 - F. Sign installation & restoration at the Walker Family and Berry Cemeteries – For record purposes only signs were installed at both cemeteries and the Berry Cemetery was restored on 6/18/13. Additionally trees and brush should be removed at Berry in the spring or fall.
 - G. Mathis Family Plot (Was Renner) sign installation – Steve Stoller noted that the landowner is not to keen on us putting up a sign. Action deferred.
 - H. Gate replacement at the Sourwine Cemetery – Fred Wetzel is still investigating.
 - I. Restoring the Spring Creek Cemetery at the IAAP – See New Business
 - J. Gallaher/Zion Cemetery access road improvement – Mike Allen suggested we send an official letter to Drew DeLang to initiate some action on the part of the landowner. Fred Wetzel will send the letter. Note: Letter was sent on August 16th.
 - K. Carter Cemetery restoration – For record purposes only the cemetery was restored including cutting tree limbs and brush on 7/25/13. Work session from about 4:30 to 6:30.

New Business:

- A. Designation of the Avery Cemetery as a pioneer cemetery at the IAAP – Background: What had been considered the Shiloh Cemetery actually consists of two cemeteries. The right side or west portion is Shiloh and is governed by a cemetery board. The left side or east end is the original cemetery that was known as the Avery Cemetery. Sometimes called the Avery Chapel Cemetery. The commission agreed that the Avery cemetery would be designated as a pioneer cemetery and that a sign should be erected ASAP.
- B. Restoration of the Spring Creek Cemetery & possibly the Avery Cemetery at the IAAP – It was agreed that we would have at least 1 work session to restore these cemeteries.
- C. Access to IAAP (New item added) – Herb Price and Paul French have worked out an arrangement with the IAAP security personnel to allow us unescorted access for cemetery restoration work. The IAAP security group will need the names and birth dates for anyone who would want to participate in the restoration activities. Fred Wetzel will gather the necessary information and give to Herb Price for him to forward to the IAAP security office. This process will take at least 6 weeks. Note: Several days after the meeting Herb

Price was advised that a criminal background check would also be required. Herb is now handling the arrangements.

- D. IAAP notification (New item added) – Herb price will send a letter to the IAAP contact person notifying them of decisions the commission has recently made and also what we would like the plant grounds department to remove or fix at our pioneer cemeteries. Note: Herb sent the email (letter) on August 10th.

Next Meeting Date – The next meeting date will be decided later and will probably be as part of another work session.

Adjournment: By unanimous agreement the meeting was adjourned at 6:45

Respectfully submitted,

Fred C. Wetzel, Sec'y/Treas