

PRELIMINARY BY F. WETZEL
MEETING MINUTES – January 26, 2015

The Des Moines County Pioneer Cemetery Commission met in the meeting room B at the Burlington Public Library on January 26, 2015. The Chairman, Herb Price, called the meeting to order at 5:30 pm. Commission members present were: Mike Allen, Stacy Bliesener, Paul French, Kenton Klenk, Alan Mohr, Herb Price, Steve Stoller, & Fred Wetzel.

Public Input: Mr. LaVon Worley from the Leopold Heritage Group attended. Mr. Worley functions as the chair for the meetings, as well as secretary and volunteer coordinator for the group. His comments are noted under Old Business item D. (Old Danville Cemetery mowing/grassland.)

Approval of the Agenda: No changes. Stand approved.

Approval of the November 24, 2014 meeting minutes: (No meeting was held in December 2014). With no changes the minutes stand approved.

Communications: None.

Old Business:

- A. Gallaher / Zion access road status – Mike Allen reported that he had contacted one of the members, Jason Frank, of the construction company that has done work on the field where the access road is located. He said that the area had been terraced and drainage tiles installed. He also said that a road (path) has been provided to access the cemetery. The road has been seeded with grass. Mike said that he intends to do a visual inspection when we have nicer weather and then report to the commission at the next meeting.
- B. Dravis Cemetery tree removal status – Steve Stoller said the problem tree had not been removed but poses no immediate danger to the cemetery. Steve thinks that the tree will be removed within the next 6 months.
- C. Avery Cemetery gravestone resetting project – Steve Stoller reported that this project is on hold until we have nice weather. Hopefully it will be completed by June 1st. The contractor, Allen Gugeler, has the billing paperwork to be signed and returned when the project is completed.
- D. Old Danville Cemetery mowing/grassland – Over the last several months it has been suggested and discussed that we investigate putting part of the cemetery into prairie grass or some other type of ground cover. This would cut down on the mowing but would require quite a bit of work to get established. Mr. LaVon Worley from the Leopold Heritage Group discussed what could possibly be done to create a prairie grass area in the cemetery. He was given a layout of the cemetery. (The next day he visited the cemetery with Herb Price and Paul French.) Some of the key points of discussion were: Code allows prairie grasses in pioneer cemeteries, list of grasses available from existing grasslands, commission has funding available, participation by the Leopold group and the

- E. commission to get the plot established, impact of the grasses on adjacent farm fields, process to establish the prairie grasses, & possible Danville high school involvement. Alan Mohr made a motion that the commission proceed with an investigation into establishing the grassland. Paul French seconded. Passed unanimously. Mr. Worley said he would present the project to the Leopold group at their next meeting. Probably in February.
- E. Magnetic Signs “Pioneer Cemetery Commission” – Last month Stacy Bliesener ordered 10 signs. All 10 were received and given to Herb Price at the meeting.
- F. D/2 cleaning product purchase – Fred Wetzel reported that he had purchased and received 4 Gallons of the D/2 cleaning solution. The box of 4 gallons will be given to Paul French after the meeting. Fred also will transfer the remaining Wet & Forget material for cleaning stones to Paul.
- G. Annual Report for 2014 submittal – Fred Wetzel said the annual report for the 2014 calendar year was submitted to the DMC commissioners early in December 2014. We did not receive any feedback. Some of the information was discussed at the budget hearing.

New Business:

- A. Budget Hearing for the 2015/2016 fiscal year – Four members attended the hearing on January 13th. Herb Price, Fred Wetzel, Alan Mohr and Paul French. Bill Walker, an associate member of the commission, also attended. The hearing went very well. Herb gave a brief rundown of some of our activities. Others attending, including Bill Walker, also contributed to the discussion of the commission activities.
- B. Mowing contractor contracts – Fred Wetzel noted that the mowing contracts are almost ready for mailing. Herb Price will sign the contracts after this meeting. A cover letter will be included and then mailed by the end of January. (Contracts were mailed on 28 January.)
- C. Membership elections/appointments - (Three year terms for Mike Allen, Paul French and Kenton Klenk expire end of January 2015.) – Mike Allen, Paul French and Kenton Klenk all agreed to stay on the commission. Terms are for 3 years. Motion to re-appoint was made by Kenton Klenk and seconded by Steve Stoller. Motion passed. Fred Wetzel stated that he will resign at the end of January 2015. Fred noted that he would like to participate in some of the work sessions. Kenton Klenk made a motion to approve the appointment of Wendell Biggs to replace Fred Wetzel as a regular member of the commission. Seconded by Paul French. Unanimous approval.
- D. Election of officers for calendar year 2015 - Herb Price and Steve Stoller agreed to stay on as officers for 2015. Kenton Klenk made a motion to elect Herb Price as Chairman. Seconded by Paul French. Motion passed. Stacy Bliesener made a motion to elect Steve Stoller as the Vice-Chairman. Seconded by Alan Mohr. Motion passed. Paul French made a motion to elect Stacy Bleiesener as the new Sec’y/Treas replacing Fred Wetzel. Seconded by Herb Price. Motion approved. Congratulations. Fred Wetzel said he will do all the necessary post meeting correspondence, do a preliminary minutes of the meeting, and copy all of the computer files to a disc and to a flash drive. Fred plans to transfer all of the files to Stacy on or about Monday February 2nd.
- E. Year 2015 work projects with proposed work schedule – There was a brief discussion but no firm plans for work sessions were made for this coming season. The work sessions will be further discussed and some established at the next meeting. Some possibilities are Avery and Spring Creek at the IAAP. Probably look at some of the remote cemeteries that need clearing out every few years.

Next Meeting Date: Monday March 23, 2015 (No regular meeting is scheduled before that date.)
Meeting room A at the BPL has been reserved on the 23rd from 5 to 7.

Adjournment: Unanimous agreement to adjourn. Meeting was adjourned at 6:35 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Stacy Bliesener, Sec'y/Treas