

MEETING MINUTES – November 25, 2013

The Des Moines County Pioneer Cemetery Commission held a meeting in meeting room B at the Burlington Public Library on November 25, 2013. The Chairman, Herb Price, called the meeting to order at 5:30 pm. Commission members present were: Mike Allen, Paul French, Kenton Klenk, Alan Mohr, Mitzi Mueller, Herb Price, Steve Stoller, & Fred Wetzel. An associate member, Bill Walker, was present. Stacy Bliesener also attended.

Public Input: None.

Approval of the Agenda: No changes. Stand approved. Later it was noted that the meeting minutes to be approved were for the meeting on August 8th not the 23rd as shown on agenda.

Approval of the August 8, 2013 meeting minutes: No corrections. Stand approved.

Note: No meetings were held in September and October.

Communications: None

Old Business:

A. Old Danville Cemetery restoration project –

1. Steve Stoller reported that Allen Gugeler has not progressed beyond the planning stage for resetting some of the gravestones and building the display platforms for others but is hopeful that he will complete the project by June of 2014. Allen, or no member of the commission, has contacted Mr. Lippert, the land owner, to determine how construction equipment will access the cemetery or if he will take some or all of the dirt that will be removed.
2. Steve Stoller provided a proposal for a historical marker including a sketch. A resurfaced granite gravestone measuring about 42” W x 24” H is available from Zahner for a cost of \$500.00 Engraving by Cris Ryrick would cost \$700.00 Allen Gugeler would install the stone on a concrete base for \$350.00 The total cost would be \$1,550.00

Fred Wetzel said he had requested quotes from the Iowa Prison Industries for an aluminum sign. This cost would be around \$200. It is estimated that mounting would be another \$200. Total cost would be about \$400. Kenton Klenk made a motion to limit the cost for any historical sign or stone plus installation to \$400. Mitzi Mueller second. Motion passed. It was decided that we would proceed with the granite stone only if others can raise \$1,150. Herb Price was to contact Joy Lynn Conwell to tell her that we would need the additional money with a decision required no later than the January meeting.

The Danville Cemetery file contains sketches of the proposed historical markers.

- ### B. Cemetery sign project -
- Fred Wetzel said that he had recently added a sign at the Porter Cemetery. One sign is on the fence at the north (Hunt Woods) entrance and the other sign is on a metal post at the west grate.

We have 2 other signs available these being one for the Jackson Cemetery and the other for the Mathis (Was Renner Farm) Cemetery. After discussion it was decided to hold off on the Mathis sign due to the reluctance of the landowner to allow installation. The Jackson sign will probably be installed next spring as this is a newly qualified pioneer cemetery.

It was noted that the Jackson cemetery may in fact be known with another name. Herb Price and Paul French to investigate.

- C. Gate for the Sourwine Cemetery – Fred Wetzel stated he had not taken any action on this project. Action deferred.

New Business

- A. Gallaher/Zion Cemetery access road – Mike Allen said he had recently talked to Jason Frank who is the Gableline's main bulldozer operator. He said that work on the road to the cemetery will depend on crop rotation. Any work will probably not be any sooner than 2015. As it stands now the road is usable for access to the cemetery but requires some maneuvering. A good heavy rain may make the road unusable.
- B. Dravis Cemetery tree removal – Steve Stoller said the tree that had fallen in the cemetery has been removed at no cost. The majority of the tree was cut up for fire wood. The commission will have to do some cleanup and reset at least 2 gravestones. Another tree is in very poor condition and may fall soon. Steve, with the approval of the commission, will have the tree removed and cut up, again at no cost. This tree will need to be felled into adjoining property.
- C. Porter Cemetery sign and brush removal – Fred Wetzel said that another sign had been added (See Old Business item C.) and that he had started brush removal both inside and outside the fence. Primarily on the outside. Mike Allen said he had been removing brush on the outside and planned to continue in the near future. (Later Mike confirmed he had completed removing the brush on the outside of the fence. Thanks Mike.)
- D. DMC Pioneer Cemeteries booklet errata sheet – Fred Wetzel noted that it may be time to initiate another Errata sheet to the cemetery booklet due to several changes in cemetery information. Herb will review the necessary change information. Fred Wetzel will help.
- E. Jackson Cemetery – In the last year it was determined that the cemetery qualifies as a pioneer cemetery. Herb plans to contact the person or persons responsible for the upkeep of the cemetery. The commission has purchased a sign for installation. At least one work session will be required to reset grave stones and do a general cleanup. (Later Bill Walker, Herb Price, and Paul French made some contacts and did additional research. To be covered in our next meeting.)
- F. 2013/2014 budget review – A financial information and estimate sheet was distributed with the meeting agenda. Filed with the meeting notice. The document shows our budgeted items with 2013/2014 budget amounts, expenditures to date and estimated fiscal year end amounts. Little discussion.
- G. Mowing contracts for the 2014 season – A mowing contractor list that shows the 2013 contracted amounts and the requested 2014 amounts was distributed with the meeting agenda. Joe Doss is asking for the largest increase but his cost is still in line with the 2012 cost to mow 4 of his 5 cemeteries by another contractor. Steve Stoller made a motion to approve the 2014 amounts. Mitzi Mueller seconded. Motion approved.
- H. Budget for the 2014/2015 fiscal year – As part of the financial information distributed as noted in item F. above a proposed budget for the 2014/2015 budget year was included. These are the same as the 2013/2014 budget amounts. Very little discussion. Steve Stoller made a motion to submit the amounts to the county auditor for the county supervisors to approve. Seconded by Alan Mohr. Motion approved.
- I. Membership changes and the future of the commission – Fred Wetzel said that we are facing some membership and officer changes. Mitzi Mueller has decided to step down. Fred Wetzel said he did not wish to continue as the Sec'y/Treas and may resign from the

commission. Stacy Bleisener said she would be willing to join the commission and take over the job of Sec'y/Treas. (Note: Two days after the meeting Mitzi Mueller officially resigned and by an email vote Stacy Bleisener was approved for appointment to the commission. Fred Wetzel sent a letter to the county supervisors advising of the change.)

Next Meeting Date – The next meeting will be held at the Burlington Public Library on Monday January 27, 2014 beginning at 5:30

Adjournment – By unanimous agreement the meeting was adjourned at 6:50. Several members had to leave before the end of the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Fred C. Wetzel, Sec'y/Treas