

MEETING MINUTES – March 24, 2014

The Des Moines County Pioneer Cemetery Commission met in the small group meeting room “1” at the Burlington Public Library on March 24, 2014. The Vice Chairman, Steve Stoller, called the meeting to order at 5:35 pm. Note: The chairman, Herb Price, was unable to attend due to medical treatments in Iowa City. Commission members present were: Stacy Bliesener, Drew DeLang, Paul French, Alan Mohr, Steve Stoller, & Fred Wetzel.

Associate member present was: Bill Walker.

Interested persons present were: Diane Sweeden, Sharon Fangman, Ann Distelhorst, and Jerry Bliesener.

Public Input: None

Approval of the Agenda: Motion to approve by Allen Mohr, seconded by Fred Wetzel.

Unanimous approval.

Approval of the February 3, 2014 meeting minutes: Motion to approve by Allen Mohr, seconded by Fred Wetzel. Unanimous approval. Note: The meeting had been scheduled for January 27, 2014 but due to poor weather it was moved to this date. No other meeting was held in February.

Communications: None

Old Business:

- A. Old Danville Cemetery restoration project – Gravestones & Sign - Steve Stoller said that he had contacted Allen Gugeler, our contractor for the stone resetting, to impress on him the need to complete his portion of the project by the end of this fiscal year (June 30). Steve said that he will call Leroy Lippert to clear the way for Allen to use part of his property for construction equipment access to the cemetery. Fred Wetzel noted that the sign for Old Danville has been received. It was decided that we will delay the decision for the installation until sometime in May when we will have a better fix on Gugeler’s progress. We would like to install the sign after the stones are reset.
- B. Errata Sheet for the Cemetery Booklet – Fred Wetzel has prepared an Errata sheet dated March 15, 2014 for updating the DMC Pioneer Cemetery booklet dated January 2012. This is the second Errata sheet since the booklet was prepared by William Walker. The changes cover the addition of the Avery and Jackson Cemeteries. A copy was given to each of the regular members.
- C. Jackson Cemetery project – Paul French is the leader on this project. Paul said that he had contacted one of the Franklin Township Trustees, Kirk Honson, about the commission erecting a sign and also doing restoration work. He said there is no problem with the commission doing a restoration or installing a sign. The trustees would like to be notified when we will have a work session as they would like to be involved. Paul said he would make the calls. Also there was some discussion about the ongoing maintenance. At the present time the township is paying for the mowing, etc. This responsibility should be taken on by the cemetery commission, possibly starting next year (2015).
- D. Dravis Cemetery tree removal – Steve Stoller said that he had talked to Max Walker who agreed to remove the tree within the next few months. The commission should not have to provide any help or pay to have the tree removed. Mike will use the wood for fire wood.

Steve said the commission will need to do some minor clean up after the tree is removed and also reset a few stones that were knocked off their base when the first tree fell.

- E. Cemetery Log – Fred Wetzel said he had completed the Pioneer Cemetery Log and he showed a copy that will be maintained by the Sec’y/Treas. Fred said the document is fairly simple and contains a list of all of the pioneer cemeteries with the following information: Cemetery name, GPS location, Size, Markers/Burials, Maintained, Sign, Restoration(s), Fencing, and any notes.
- F. Pioneer Cemetery Sec’y/Treas procedures – Fred Wetzel said, as noted during a previous meeting, he had prepared a procedures booklet that has recently been updated. Not yet complete. The booklet contains a written portion plus the examples section. Fred is hoping to have Herb Price review the booklet within the next several weeks. Then the booklet will be given to Stacy Bliesener for her review. Stacy will be the recipient when she takes over as the Sec’y/Treas possibly at the end of June, 2014.
- G. Mowing contracts & billing – Fred Wetzel said that all of the mowing contracts for 2014 have been signed & returned. He also said that the first half of 2014 billing is ready for mailing. Note: The billing will be mailed sometime in early May.

New Business:

- A. Facebook page for the DMCPCC – Stacy Bliesener had proposed the commission set up a Facebook Page for the commission. Earlier in March the request was approved by the commission. Stacy reports the following progress: www.facebook.com/desmoinescopioneer cemeterycommission , Aspen Grove Cemetery has posted a link on their website; The Burlington Public Library will add a link on their genealogy and local history pages; The DMC genealogy society will discuss adding a link to their web site at their next meeting; The DMC Historical Society has yet to respond to our request to add a link; Working on establishing a link to the DMC website; I have added a link to my DMC page for iagenweb under resource page; and I have been posting a link onto other local Facebook groups like Pictures of Burlington, DMC Memories, etc. Thanks Stacy.
- B. Listing of work session & proposed schedule – Fred Wetzel said our normal work session schedule has been on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays of the month. No member present seemed to have a problem with this schedule. After some discussion it was decided that our first work session will be set for April 10th and will be at the Hukill Cemetery. Bill Walker has agreed to provide a go or no go on the access to the cemetery several days in advance. For the following work session on April 24 we will do a cleanup and minor repairs at the Dravis Cemetery. As weather is always an issue we may do Dravis on the 10th and then Hukill on the 24th. Note: A day after the meeting Steve Stoller suggested it may be possible to do both cemeteries on the 10th. We are tentatively planning to work on the Jackson Cemetery on May 8th. Other work sessions will be scheduled later.

Other Business:

- A. Finances - Fred Wetzel gave a brief review of our finances. He said that by the end of this fiscal year we are estimated to spend about \$17,500. This includes the first half of the 2014 mowing costs. Our 2013/2014 budget is \$23,000. This leaves \$5,500 to cover the cost for the final phase of the Old Danville project or other activities.
- B. Iowa Army Ammunition Plant (IAAP) access – Several of the members have passes that allow unescorted access to the pioneer cemeteries in the plant area. These passes were obtained last year and it is understood that they need to be renewed each year. To be investigated.

Next Meeting Date – The next meeting date will be decided later and will most likely be a part of

a work session.

Adjournment: Paul French made a motion to adjourn. Seconded by Allen Mohr. Approved.
Meeting was adjourned at 6:25 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Fred C. Wetzel, Sec'y/Treas