

Pioneer Cemetery Commission  
Meeting Minutes  
December 12, 2019

The meeting was called to order about 7:00 PM in the home of commission member Bruce Collins. In addition to Bruce Collins the meeting was attended by Chairperson Lee Embretson and commission members Myra Voss and Lee Lenth. Also in attendance was friend of the commission, Frank Phippen.

The minutes of the previous meeting of August 15<sup>th</sup> were reviewed and approved with the comment being made that our goal of having the work completed at the Redman Cemetery as noted in those minutes was not met. (However a great deal of work there as been done with the fencing of the designated memorial area almost completed.)

The first order of business was a discussion of the McClelland Cemetery. It was noted that \$500 was donated to the commission in November 2018 by Nancy Bleil which is held in a bank account dedicated for use at this cemetery. It was also noted that during 2019 a sign was designed and a quote received for the production of said sign (\$350.42) to be erected along Hwy 52 noting that this cemetery was in a nearby field. This sign was not made because the tenant of the field in which the cemetery is located objected fearing that it would cause trespassing and damage to the field and crops on that field. So, the discussion this evening was on how do we use this money for improvements on this cemetery, repairing the tumbled rock wall that once was there, finding the stone masons to do such work and the costs of doing it seemed much more than the time and money available to the commission to do this. Using the money to have someone erect a chain link fence around the cemetery seems to the commission members to be a much more doable project. A motion was made, seconded and passed to have Lee Embreston discuss this option with the money donor and the landowner. More discussion to follow after that has occurred.

Lee Embretson presented bills for the purchase of 12 feet of 1x1 stainless steel and 15 bags of concrete mix to be used for the repair of gravestones

totaling \$164.70 plus a request on mileage for 57 miles. A motion was made, seconded and passed to approve these reimbursements.

I (Bruce Collins) presented a mileage reimbursement request for 187 miles for several trips to Redman Cemetery and one trip to Borcharding Cemetery. A motion was made, seconded and passed to approve such reimbursement.

A discussion followed about the Humphrey Cemetery near Monona. I (Bruce Collins) summarized the exchanges that occurred, noting that the County Supervisors received a letter from Shaun Ryan complaining that the headstones had been removed at this cemetery and thinking that was the irresponsible action of the County Pioneer Cemetery Commission. The Supervisors forwarded that letter to me and I forwarded the letter to all the commission members. Myra Voss and Lee Lenth both had much knowledge about this cemetery, Lee visited the cemetery taking pictures and described the current state of the cemetery. With the information obtained from Myra and Lee I was able to respond to the Supervisors noting that this is a religious cemetery associated with St. Patrick Parish in Monona and that the County Pioneer Cemetery Commission had nothing to do with what was done or not done at this cemetery. My response was then forwarded to Shaun Ryan by Supervisor Sharon Keehner and that ends this matter as far as our commission is concerned.

Next on the agenda was a discussion of Redman Cemetery noting the work done so far with a discussion as to how to complete the project including setting the headstones and measures needed to keep the site neat and as maintenance free as possible. Discussion and planning related to this is to be continued.

Chairperson Lee Embretson said in review of the minutes from the last meeting that he has not yet spoken to Linda Fox related to placement of the cemetery gravestones on the King Cemetery.

I (Bruce Collins) presented a bill for \$400 from Brian Thiese for the mowing of the Borcharding Cemetery during the 2019 season. There was some discussion about the amount of the bill with the thought being that we had

negotiated a lower rate. A review of the records shows that \$400 was paid for this service in 2018. After some more discussion Lee Lenth made a motion to pay this bill for \$400, Myra Voss seconded the motion the motion passed.

(This parenthetical information was not discussed at this meeting but is included for informational purposes. -----A review of the minutes for December 19, 2017 shows an approved motion to pay \$500 for the mowing of the Borcharding Cemetery and also \$500 for the mowing of the Eastman Cemetery. At that same meeting there was a discussion to reduce the number of mowing in 2018 and thereby reduce the bill. A telephone call was made by Lee Embretson during that meeting to the people doing this mowing and if I recall correctly they were receptive to this proposal. I believe we had been paying \$500 for the mowing of each of these cemeteries for a number of years prior to 2017.)

Related to the Patterson Cemetery where our Commission had a work event on August 06, 2019 which included the trimming of damaged tree limbs. Frank Phippen said he felt uncomfortable about some of the limbs not trimmed at that time thinking they would come down within the next year or two in a wind or ice storm and damage some of the gravestones which we had just repaired. With that being his concern Frank asked Brian Glawe to do some additional trimming which Brian did. For that work Frank asked the Commission if we would provide a \$50 gift certificate from the St. Olaf tavern to Brian Glawe in appreciation for his work. We did. We moved, seconded and passed a motion to reimburse Frank Pippen for said gift certificate which he will get and give on behalf of the commission.

Since our spouses were visiting and waiting to have a Christmas social after our meeting it was suggested and agreed to defer additional discussion of plans for next year to a meeting in early 2020. So with that a motion was made, seconded and approved to adjourn at 8:15 PM.

Bruce Collins  
Secretary/Treasurer

