

Pioneer Cemetery Commission
Meeting Minutes
May 19, 2021

This meeting was called to order about 6:45 pm at the Redman Cemetery worksite in Millville Township.

In attendance were commission members Lee Embretson, Leon Dibble, Lee Lenth and Bruce Collins. Also in attendance was friend of the commission, Frank Pippen.

The meeting occurred after a work session repairing and re-enforcing the cemetery chain link fencing damaged by livestock in the adjacent pasture.

The minutes of the last formal meeting from December 12, 2019 were reviewed, discussed and approved as written. With the year 2020 being a down year due to the pandemic, except for a telephone call-around to get one bill approved, there were no formal meetings in 2020.

There followed a discussion about the projects and functions of the Commission going forward.

Frank Pippen gave a brief history related to the state legislature creation of the county pioneer cemetery commission system and noting that before this formal commission system was created Myra Voss and others were already doing work documenting and preserving pioneer cemeteries around the county.

Frank Pippen also suggested that the commission establish a card file, a 5x6 card file, to document the names of those buried in pioneer cemeteries in the county. A motion was made, seconded and approved to purchase such a file for that purpose.

There was a discussion about adding new commission members but it was noted that the commission is limited to five members and the commission currently has that number of members.

A question was raised related to the commission's working meetings at cemetery sites starting at five pm or later. During the late spring and summer months daylight is not an issue but the energy and rigor placed on our commission members is an issue, with three members being or approaching 80 years of age. The suggestion was that, if possible, working meetings at cemetery sites be started in the morning or early afternoon.

Issues noted but needing further discussion included the following:

McClelland Cemetery---the commission is holding \$500 in trust, received from a descendant of the family---how do we use that money?

Redman Cemetery---One gravestone stored at Frank Pippen's residence—how do we repair—how do we install at the cemetery?

King Cemetery---Where should the headstones be placed? Discussion needs to take place with Linda Fox.

Fry Cemetery---Myra Voss said the sign for the cemetery is in need of attention—it's leaning.

Patterson Cemetery---Some discussion of additional signage—more discussion needed—information displayed, size, placement.

Headstone-Frank Pippen has---should this stone be placed in the East Side Cemetery?

Shori Cemetery---Cemetery located in Marion Township visited by the commission February 13, 2018---fencing was considered at that time—do we want to pursue?

A motion was made, seconded and passed to purchase two 18" x 24" signs for future use made from of a material like that of the sign placed at Redman Cemetery.

It was determined that another meeting was needed soon to make a more definite plan of action for the year. A meeting was scheduled for Wednesday May 26 at 1:00 pm at the Genealogy Center in Elkader.

A motion was made, seconded and passed to adjourn the meeting at approximately 8:05 pm.

Bruce Collins
Secretary/Treasurer
CCPCC