

Cherokee County Cemetery Preservation Committee

Meeting Minutes

10 February 2014

Cherokee County Administration Building

Business Center Conference Room

Canton, Georgia

Members Present: Loriann White and Reuben Wilson

Members Not Present: John Cadle, Harold Silvey, and Jean Vredenburgh

Staff Present: Michael Chapman and Margaret Stallings

The committee meeting began at 9:05 am.

Mr. Chapman said that he had received e-mails from Mr. Silvey and Ms. Vredenburgh saying that they would be unable to attend the committee meeting. Mr. Chapman also said that he had not heard from Mr. Cadle since early January.

Ms. White made a motion to approve the January committee meeting minutes. Mr. Wilson seconded Ms. White's motion. The January committee meeting minutes were unanimously approved.

The committee briefly paused so that Ms. White and Mr. Wilson could have their pictures taken at the Development Service Center. The pictures are used on a Cherokee County-issued identification card. The cards were issued to Ms. White and Mr. Wilson at the end of the committee meeting. The cards are to be used when committee members are visiting cemeteries or conducting other official committee business.

Mr. Chapman distributed copies of the bylaws of the Cherokee County Planning Commission and the Cherokee County Zoning Board of Appeals. At the January meeting Mr. White suggested that the committee should consider adopting bylaws to add more structure to the committee. Ms. White said that as the committee grows and its work expands bylaws should be in place. Ms. Stallings suggested that Ms. White and Mr. Wilson take their copies of the bylaws and review them before the March meeting. Mr. Chapman said that he would e-mail the bylaws to the committee members not present at the meeting. Ms. Stallings recommended that committee members review and take note of sections from the Planning Commission and Zoning Board of Appeals bylaws that they like for inclusion in the Cemetery Preservation Committee bylaws. Ms. White noted that the Planning Commission bylaws may be more applicable to the Cemetery Preservation Committee than the Zoning Board of Appeals bylaws. Ms. Stallings suggested that the Cemetery Preservation Ordinance and the Cemetery Preservation Plan can form the backbone of the committee's bylaws.

Ms. Stallings informed the committee that she submitted a copy of the Cemetery Preservation Plan to the Cherokee County Manager for his review. Ms. White asked if it would be appropriate for committee members to advocate adoption of the Cemetery Preservation Plan to members of the Board of Commissioners. Ms. Stallings said that communicating with to members of the Board of Commissioners is completely acceptable. Ms. Stallings and Mr. Chapman said they would be willing to help draft a letter from the committee to the Board of Commissioners encouraging adoption of the Cemetery Preservation Plan.

Ms. Stallings briefly summarized the recent discussion of the proposed Historic Preservation Ordinance at the Board of Commissioners' work-session. The Commissioners had several concerns about the Certificate of Appropriateness process and its impact on property owners. Mr. Chapman

reminded the committee that, if adopted, a Certificate of Appropriateness would be required for all exterior changes, new construction or demolition, or signage within historic district boundaries visible from the public right of way. Ms. Stallings noted that there are no immediate plans to resume consideration of the Historic Preservation Ordinance. Ms. White said that it was unfortunate that Cherokee County has never adopted a Historic Preservation Ordinance.

Mr. Chapman inquired about the status of Ms. White's grant application to the R. J. Taylor, Jr. Foundation. Ms. White said that the grant application had been received and is under review. The grant application is for a project at Enon Cemetery. The R. J. Taylor, Jr. Foundation promotes genealogical research in Georgia by providing grants to individuals and organizations to defray the cost of publishing approved projects.

Ms. Stallings raised the topic of designating Heritage Trees at Riverside Cemetery in Canton. At the January meeting Ms. White raised the possibility of designating several trees in Riverside Cemetery as Heritage Trees. A Heritage Tree is one of unique and intrinsic value to the general public because of its size, age, historic association, unique species to the region, and/or ecological value. Ms. Stallings pointed out that because Riverside Cemetery is within the city limits of Canton, the Cemetery Preservation Committee has no authority within the incorporated areas of Cherokee County. Ms. White suggested that the committee consider other cemeteries in unincorporated Cherokee County where Heritage Trees could be designated.

Ms. Stallings raised the possibility of holding a meeting at a cemetery sometime in the Spring or Summer. Both Ms. White and Mr. Wilson were receptive to this idea.

Having no further business Mr. Wilson made a motion to adjourn the Cemetery Preservation Committee meeting. Ms. White seconded the motion. The committee voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 10:05am.

The next Cherokee County Cemetery Preservation Cemetery Preservation Committee meeting will be 10 March 2014 at the Cherokee County Administration Building in Canton.