

Cherokee County Cemetery Preservation Committee

Meeting Minutes

14 April 2014

Cherokee County Administration Building

Business Center Conference Room

Canton, Georgia

Members Present: John Cadle, Harold Silvey, Loriann White and Reuben Wilson

Members Not Present: Jean Vredenburgh

Staff Present: Michael Chapman and Margaret Stallings

Volunteers: Dwight and Pam Dover

The committee meeting began at 9:02 am.

A motion was made by Ms. White to approve the March committee meeting minutes. Chairman Silvey seconded the motion. The committee voted unanimously to approve the minutes.

Mr. Wilson informed the committee that he recently visited the Nancy Jane Clayton cemetery and noticed that one of the gravestones had been turned over. Ms. White and Mr. and Ms. Dover said they also visited several cemeteries recently and completed survey forms. Ms. Stallings made photocopies of the surveys and returned the originals to the members. Ms. Stallings announced to the committee that the cemetery layer has been added back to Cherokee County's online map program (<http://gis.cherokeega.com>).

Mr. Cadle inquired about the status of the Pine Knot Cemetery proposal. Ms. Stallings said that the proposal needed to be resubmitted to the County Manager for his review. The County Manager is responsible for determining when an individual is eligible for burial in Pine Knot Cemetery. Mr. Cadle said there needs to be a way to designate certain areas for burial and certain areas as off-limits so that funeral directors will know where to bury the deceased. Mr. Cadle said that if burials occur in the correct location there should be space for twenty more years of internments at the current burial rate.

Mr. Cadle informed the committee that a local high school Air Force JROTC unit is interested in doing volunteer work for the committee. Mr. Cadle also said that he recently located seven new cemeteries which were not previously identified on the cemetery map. Mr. Cadle asked if it would be possible for a member of the Cherokee County Roads and Bridges Division to pick up bags of trash collected by volunteers at local cemeteries. Ms. Stallings said that due to staffing and funding limitations it is unlikely that the Roads and Bridges Division will be able to assist in this matter.

Mr. Cadle raised the topic of using community service workers to aid in cleaning up various cemeteries. At the March meeting, Mr. Silvey suggested using community service workers assigned by a Cherokee County judge to clean cemeteries. Mr. Cadle said that a member of the committee would need to be present in order to supervise the community service worker and sign his/her work form. Mr. Silvey suggested contacting State Court Judge Alan Jordan to inquire about assigning community service workers to cemeteries.

Mr. Chapman briefly summarized the bylaws he and Ms. Stallings recently prepared. The bylaws are based in part on the bylaws of the Cherokee County Zoning Board of Appeals and Planning Commission. The committee members were e-mailed copies of the bylaws for their review prior to

today's meeting. The committee voted to change the meeting time to 6:00pm. The committee will continue to meet on the second Monday of the month at the Cherokee County Administration Building in Canton. Mr. Silvey nominated Ms. White to serve as Vice-Chairperson and Ms. Vredenburgh to serve as Secretary. The committee unanimously voted to approve both nominations. Ms. White made a motion to adopt the bylaws as amended (to include the new meeting time). Mr. Cadle seconded the motion. The committee unanimously approved the bylaws.

Ms. White informed the committee that she is in the process of revising her application to the R. J. Taylor, Jr. Foundation. 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. White is seeking a grant for Enon Cemetery. In the denial letter, the Taylor Foundation offered a list of items to correct when the application is resubmitted. Ms. White is correcting such items as font style, picture colors, and other formatting items.

Ms. White asked Mr. Silvey about the possibility of moving the remains of a veteran of the American Revolution to the Georgia National Cemetery. Mr. Silvey said that a member of the veteran's family would have to grant permission for the remains to be moved. However, Mr. Silvey said that, because such a significant amount of time has passed since his internment, there will likely be very little left to disinter. Mr. Silvey said a few pieces of the soldier's clothing is likely all that would remain. Mr. Silvey also said that disinterring the remains could be very expensive.

Ms. White said that an African-American slave is buried in New Bethel Cemetery. Ms. White said the cemetery needs to be cleaned. Mr. Cadle said that a Methodist Church was once located near New Bethel Cemetery, however, the church moved many years ago. The United Methodist Church still owns New Bethel Cemetery.

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 10:35am.

The next Cherokee County Cemetery Preservation Cemetery Preservation Committee meeting will be 12 May 2014 at the Cherokee County Administration Building in Canton.