

Cherokee County Cemetery Preservation Committee

Meeting Minutes

9 June 2014

Cherokee County Administration Building

Hickory Log Conference Room

Canton, Georgia

Members Present: Harold Silvey, Jean Vredenburg, and Reuben Wilson

Members Not Present: John Cadle and Loriann White

Staff Present: Michael Chapman and Margaret Stallings

The committee meeting began at 6:10 pm. The committee met in the Hickory Log Conference Room this month in order to use the computer and projector in the conference room. The Business Center Conference Room where the committee usually meets does not have a computer or projector.

Mr. Silvey asked that the committee reschedule the visit to Enon Cemetery planned for this month. Mr. Silvey suggested a visit to Enon Cemetery during the July committee meeting, however, Ms. Vredenburg said that she and Ms. White would be out of town on that date attending the National Society of the Children of the American Revolution convention. Ms. Vredenburg asked that the committee consider alternate dates. Mr. Silvey asked Mr. Chapman to e-mail the committee some potential dates for the committee to visit Enon Cemetery.

Mr. Wilson asked about the status of the Boy Scout project at Bruce/Fair Cemetery near East Cherokee Drive. Ms. Stallings said that the project has not been approved yet by the local Boy Scout unit. Ms. Stallings said the cemetery is on an undeveloped parcel within a residential subdivision owned by John Wieland Homes, LLC. Ms. Stallings said she would like a member of the committee to visit the cemetery with the Boy Scout before he begins the project to ensure that he is aware of appropriate cemetery preservation techniques. Ms. Stallings said she hopes to have additional information about the project at the July meeting.

Ms. Stallings updated the committee on the Pine Knot Cemetery Preservation proposal. The Cherokee County Board of Commissioners recently approved the cemetery preservation plan. The Board of Commissioners tasked the Planning and Land Use Department with implementing the preservation plan. The plan was prepared by the committee, in conjunction with the Cherokee County Planning and Land Use Department and the Engineering Department. One of the primary reasons for preparing the plan was to prevent future burials from occurring in a haphazard, unsustainable manner. For example, several burials took place near several large specimen trees which could damage the trees and surrounding soil. In the preservation plan, the Cherokee County Arborist identified several areas that can be used for burials without negatively impacting the trees and soil.

Pine Knot Cemetery is owned by Cherokee County and used for the burial of indigent individuals. Mr. Silvey suggested providing a copy of the Pine Knot Cemetery Preservation Plan to funeral homes in Cherokee County so they will be aware of the appropriate burial locations. Ms. Stallings noted that Cherokee County has recently had to become quite stringent in its review of applications to be buried in Pine Knot Cemetery. It was discovered that individuals who were purported to be indigent had expensive

headstones placed on their graves, indicating that the deceased person's next-of-kin likely could have paid for the funeral.

Ms. Vredenburg summarized visits to cemeteries she recently made with Ms. White. Ms. Vredenburg said that she was able to locate some of the cemeteries she was asked to find at the May meeting. Mr. Silvey said that he was unable to locate the Law Cemetery near East Rope Mill Road. The Law Cemetery was thought to be somewhere on parcel 15N15 071C, however, Mr. Silvey was unable to locate the cemetery. Ms. Stallings did a brief search of the Cherokee County Deeds and Records website but was unable to determine anything conclusive.

Mr. Wilson noted that the committee did not approve the May committee meeting minutes at the start of the meeting. Mr. Wilson made a motion to approve the May committee meeting minutes. Ms. Vredenburg seconded the motion. The committee voted unanimously to approve the May meeting minutes.

Having no further business Ms. Vredenburg made a motion to adjourn the Cemetery Preservation Committee meeting. Mr. Wilson seconded the motion. The committee voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 7:11 pm.

The next Cherokee County Cemetery Preservation Cemetery Preservation Committee meeting will be 14 July 2014 in the Cherokee County Administration Building in Canton.