

Dearborn County Cemetery Commission

The Dearborn County Cemetery Commission met Saturday, October 21, 2007 at 10:00 AM at Lawrenceburg Public Library. Present were Vice-President Chris McHenry, Secretary Lois Harper and Art Wenzel.

Art has submitted 121 cemeteries to DNR and has made copies for the local library and the local historical society. New cemeteries that he has found are the Lutheran Plummer Cemetery, Givan Cemetery, Cook Cemetery and the Tyrrel Cemetery. These are all in Manchester Township. This is the township Art is working on at the present time. He has done so much! He signs the packets Dearborn County Preservation Committee.

In York Township, the John Kessler Cemetery was found and Art has gone back five deeds. The cemetery is a 12 X 12 but only has one grave. John was the old postmaster at New Alsace.

In Logan Township, Eric Smith had told us there was a cemetery on Mt. Pleasant Road and about where it was but it has not been investigated enough to know much. Art contacted someone he knows but they do not know of a cemetery there.

At the County Farm, Art would like to have all the dirt moving done by mid November and grass seeded. He has gotten permission. By spring we should be able to fence that cemetery in. The CD can be renewed for another short term. It is due December 23, 2007 at the moment.

The Darling Cemetery has a memorial stone representing the people buried there.

Art was told about a cemetery off Scenic Drive, near Orchard and Chris discussed them.

Sparta Township has 40 cemeteries.

All of the cemeteries Art is hoping to have done in 2008. Then he would like to start restoring some of these cemeteries. We need funding and that was discussed. He would like to go to a cemetery workshop and see the latest and best way to restore these old stones.

We discussed having a workshop in the spring. This could include Tony Gilb and Doris Schwier talking about what they have done with cemeteries they are interested in. All of our township trustees should be invited and we need to get them interested in preserving them. Art suggested Dennis Kraus Jr. should come aboard the Cemetery Commission. He will talk to him.

We discussed doing cemeteries that Revolutionary War Veterans are buried in. York Ridge at Kuebel is one that should be restored.

Art said some property lines on these old cemeteries dwindle over to owners' property lines. We really should have an attorney with us. Bob Ewbank was suggested.

Our next meeting will be at Lawrenceburg Public Library December 1, 2007 at 10:00 AM.

There be nothing further, the meeting was adjourned.

Lois Harper,
Secretary for DCCC

Dearborn County Cemetery Commission

The Dearborn County Cemetery Commission met at the Lawrenceburg Public Library December 1, 2007.

Present: All members, Milt Masing, Art Wenzel, Dennis Kraus, Chris McHenry and Lois Harper.

The minutes of the preceeding meeting were approved on motion by Art Wenzel, seconded by Chris McHenry.

Wenzel reported that the burial ground at the County Farm has been seeded, but he wants to wait until there is grass before installing the fence, which will cost approximately \$2500. It may need to be reseeded in the spring. He will try to get straw and seed from the county highway department and will donate the fertilizer.

A note of appreciation will be sent to the highway department for their cooperation.

The CD should be renewed for up to another 90 days.

Approximately 200 cemeteries are known to exist, with 125 reported to DNR. Wenzel estimates completion by the end of 2008, and is doing almost all of the work himself.

Masing requested to be allowed to relinquish the presidency. On motion by McHenry, seconded by Kraus, Art Wenzel was elected president, with Chris McHenry as vice president, and Lois Harper as secretary-treasurer.

Masing reported that Volume D of his cemetery records is complete except for the index.

By consensus, it was agreed that the next step for the Commission will be to begin restoration of damaged and neglected cemeteries.

It was also agreed to meet every two months with the next meeting on Saturday, February 2 in the Commissioners' Room.

Preliminary plans are being made for a general meeting to include township trustees and other interested people the first Saturday in April. Also invited, will be people with cemetery conservation experience, such as Dennis Bourquein and Dick and Clara Lewis.

Masing would like to approach the Community Foundation for office supplies, and it was suggested the county may have surplus file cabinets. Kraus will check into funding.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned.

Chris McHenry, secretary protem