

COMMITTEE TO PRESERVE DEARBORN COUNTY PIONEER CEMETERIES

Feb 3, 2001
1:00 PM

The committee to preserve Dearborn County pioneer cemeteries met Saturday, February 3, 2001 at 1 p. m. at the Vance-Tousey House, thanks to Dearborn County Historical Society.

Eight concerned members met to discuss what we can do to help take care of small cemeteries that need our help.

Much discussion was held about the best way to go about getting started. It was told Fayette County pulls money and pays for someone to help them. Dearborn County puts no money towards cemeteries but each township does help with some cemeteries that are eligible.

We decided upon a statement for our mission which is to help cemeteries without funds or sources of funds for reasonable maintenance. We need to find all cemeteries that can be eligible for our help and find the facts about these cemeteries. Many small cemeteries still have associations and they take care of their own cemeteries such as Mt. Pleasant, East Fork and West Fork.

After some discussion, it was agreed upon that Chris McHenry would chair the committee for the first year and Milton Masing will chair the committee the second year. Lois Harper became secretary.

We need five members to take to the Commissioners for approval to be the official county cemetery commission. Chris McHenry, Milton Masing, Lois Harper are to be three. Others suggested were Carol Lane who is Manchester Township Trustee or Janet Ross who lives in Manchester Township, and others suggested were Roger Woodfill, Dennis Kraus, Jeff Stenger, Bernadette Stenger and Art Wenzel.

Chris McHenry will send a news release when we know who the Commissioners will agree upon, to be on this cemetery commission.

The biggest agenda this committee has will be to determine what cemeteries are eligible.

Our meetings will be held at the Vance-Tousey House, 508 West High Street, Lawrenceburg, on the first Saturday of every other month, beginning with today's date, succeeded by the following months of April, June, August, October and December. The time will be at 1:00 p.m.

Lois Harper

COMMITTEE TO PRESERVE DEARBORN COUNTY PIONEER CEMETERIES

7 April 2001
1:00 PM

The cemetery committee for preserving cemeteries in Dearborn County met at the Vance Tousey House for their second meeting.

We are waiting for some more people to respond before we seek the approval of the Commissioners. Roger Woodfill is wanting to be on this commission. He can also help do surveying if needed. We desperately need a township trustee, if at all possible and we are hoping Carol Lane from Manchester Township can help us. The Commissioners have asked for a list for appointment.

Right now, the developers can either take care of the cemeteries on their property or they can choose to move the cemetery. This is coming from the County Subdivision Ordinance. One suggestion is for the Commission to ask for public notice from zoning. Floyd County has lost four this year alone. The Army Corp of Engineers remove the cemeteries to a Pioneer Cemetery. Fairfield Township Cemetery in Franklin County was completely moved. Indiana Department of Natural Resources, Jeannie R. Dinnos, carry out this law. We need a draft for cemetery reform. Two years ago, farmers could still plow under cemeteries. The Historic Preservation of the Indiana Department of Natural Resources has taken a hard stand and say that you can not dig up old stones, unless you get a state certification.

This restoration project still needs to clean up these neglected cemeteries. This committee's plans are to clean up and make things presentable. Then hopefully, someone can keep it under control. Behind Steak N Shake, there are 20 marble stones and 30 field stones which needs our help. Also, one is on Market Street in Aurora, the Johnston Cemetery on North Hogan Creek., which holds John Kyle, a Revolutionary War soldier, located near the mill and the Butt family on 48 near the Ripley County Line. Milburne Cemetery is also neglected. All of these cemeteries need our help. One will be decided upon and we will try to meet 2 Jun at 9:00 AM. Community corrections may be able to help us. Chris McHenry will send directions for which cemetery is decided upon. We will need lots of help and bring rakes, chain saws, shovels, gloves, etc. Debris will probably have to be picked up.

Mark Lyttle of Madison is in charge of legislation. We need a cemetery reserve like a conservation reserve. The Commission will be at County level.

Suggestions for reading old stones are rubbings.

Lois Harper donated a filing cabinet and we will maintain a resource center at the Vance Tousey House thanks to the Dearborn County Historical Society.

Submitted by Lois Lee Harper

THE COMMITTEE TO PRESERVE DEARBORN COUNTY CEMETERIES

August 4, 2001
9:30 AM
Vance-Tousey House

Art, Ollie, Milt, Chris and Lois were present for the meeting.
Minutes from April's meeting were read and corrected.

For the June 2 cleanup of a cemetery, it was a nasty rainy morning. Art, Milt and Chris all showed up but did not all make connections with one another. Chris and Art worked until the chainsaw broke. They accomplished a fraction of what needs to be done yet.

Our next meeting should be 6 October. There is a workshop in Madison at the library concerning Cemetery Preservation on this same day. Our meeting will be to do this workshop.

Chris brought in a Global Positioning Device. This device can help us to fill out forms for the Cemetery Registry Survey for the Department of Natural Resources, Division of Historic Preservation and Archaeology in Indianapolis. A four-page form needs to be filled out for each cemetery, including some information as name and address of the cemetery, longitude and latitude, Section, Township and Range.

Lois Harper will try to do cemeteries in Harrison, Logan and Miller Township. Milt Masing will take care of Lawrenceburg and Center Township. Art Wenzel will do Sparta Township while Chris will start in Manchester Township.

Something helpful in this project is the Quad maps at TOPOZONE.com.

Chris McHenry will go before the County Commissioners Monday, August 6. Their agenda has us scheduled for 10:50 AM in the Juvenile Courtroom on the second floor.

Roger Woodfill wants to be a part of this organization also and he may be handy with his surveying.

If we are commissioned, we can have Community Corrections or the Scouts help us. We can also eventually receive grant money for restoring cemeteries.

Submitted by Lois Lee Harper

THE COMMITTEE TO PRESERVE DEARBORN COUNTY CEMETERIES

Monday, August 6, 2001, Chris McHenry went before the County Commissioners for the purpose of our organization to become commissioned. It went well. The Commissioners tabled it until she can give them some information on Fayette County and how they wrote up their by laws.

Submitted by Lois Lee Harper