

## **CLARK COUNTY CEMETERY COMMISSION**

**SEPTEMBER 13, 2006**

**A meeting of the Clark County Cemetery Commission was held on September 13, 2006 in a public meeting room at the Charlestown Public Library with eight people present.**

**Commissioner President Dan Johnson called the meeting to order at 6:30 P.M.**

**Commission members present: President Dan Johnson, Vice President David Abbott, Treasurer Tamzy Muerier, Secretary Theresa James and Member Lois Mauk. Also present Jeanne Burk, Paul Coffman and wife Pat Coffman.**

**Secretary Theresa James read aloud the minutes from the previous meeting. The minutes were accepted as read.**

**Mr. & Mrs. Coffman invited everyone to a public meeting September 28, 2006 at the Borden Museum regarding the Old Borden Cemetery.**

### **OLD BUSINESS**

**President Johnson reported that on June 14, 2006 he attended a meeting of the Clark County Plan Commission regarding Autumn Ridge Cemetery on Perry Crossing Road. President Johnson reported that the developer agreed to deed the Cemetery over to Carr Township Trustee and provide a paved road and parking.**

**In the Treasurer's report Tamzy Muerier reported that there was no change since the last meeting.**

**Regarding the McClintick Cemetery Tamzy Meurier reported that the Eagle Scouts would paint the fence when the paint is available.**

(November 26th). The incident was reported to the local police. Two days subsequent (November 29, 2006), Dan and Betty Johnson found the site littered with broken glass. They picked up six gallons of glass pieces. The police were called again. On December 3, 2006, the Johnsons spotted Mr. Dooley in the nearby woods. On December 5, 2006, the Johnsons started negotiating with Steve Miller of Essroc about installing a light in the cemetery in hopes of deterring further incidents of vandalism. All of the above notwithstanding, no gravemarkers were damaged in the vandalism as only two have been found to date; one is at Charlestown Monument for repairs and the other is in Dan's barn for safekeeping. Despite all of these disturbing events, Dan Johnson hopes to finish the cemetery some time next year, including installing of a fence.

Autumn on the River: We had a table at the Autumn on the River festival up in Bethlehem in late October. The giant map of Clark County is going to remain up there in the schoolhouse.

Borden Cemetery: Paul and Pat Coffman reported on a recent very successful fundraising effort at Borden Cemetery and their continuing difficulties in working with the school system, the apparent owner of the cemetery. Access for mowing of the cemetery is possible, but efforts to repair the many broken stones is still an issue.

Goodwin Cemetery on Stacy Road: Dan Johnson reported on his visit to Goodwin Cemetery at the request of John K. Goodwin from Rector, Pennsylvania about concerns for the integrity and safety of the cemetery. Dan visited the site and reports the stones are in good shape. The cemetery is essentially out of sight and is still on private property. The cemetery is not in jeopardy as a result of the planned widening of Stacy Road. Dan referred Mr. Goodwin to Jeanne Regan-Dinius at DNR/Historic Preservation in Indianapolis.

Smith Cemetery in Utica, near the Clark County Schools Administration Building: Jeanne Burke (Clark County Historian) reported to the Commission on the condition and plight of this cemetery. The stone wall has been damaged and the chain fence was damaged by falling trees. The adjacent house is in really bad condition; it was full of garbage, which has been hauled out. Blanche Woolls and Arthur Sutton are the owners now. The brick walls are all that are left of the old house. Jeanne proposes a Clark County Cemetery Commission clean-up project there in 2007. This site will be very near the new bridge, once construction gets underway and it is near the Old Stone Place. Lois recommended contacting the County Sheriff's Office for inmate labor to work on the heavy, more dangerous aspects of the clean up and tree removal. Community Service Workers might be a better option for the more detailed aspects of the project (raking, hauling, etc.)

On matters of New Business:

Dan is still working on the 2006 year-end report.

2007 Meeting Dates -- February 13, 2007 and then again in May 2007

Commission expiration dates: Dan Johnson - 2007, David Abbott - 2008, Lois Mauk - 2009, Theresa James -- 2010 and Tamsie Meurer - 2011.

Meeting was adjourned.

Lois Mauk  
Temporary Secretary

Township Trustee Ernie Thompson because she wishes to be buried in her family cemetery. The Board members decided to refer her to the Health Department.

President Johnson reported that he was invited by Donnie Woods to go the Indian Burial grounds in Borden and that Harry Amos of Borden took two Federal Agents to the site.

A letter from the late Lynn Cooley was read aloud by President Johnson.

Jeanne Burke treated the Board with a very interesting and informative talk about the Smith Cemetery in grant 15 off Utica Sellersburg Road in Utica Township that is believed to be a pioneer cemetery.

President Johnson laid out the five year plan as follows:

1. Someone must volunteer to become president.
2. A publicity person is needed.
3. The Board needs to work more closely with the Township Trustees.
4. A better research plan and volunteers are needed.
5. A long term finance program is needed.

There being no further business to come before the Commission at this time, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

Theresa James, Secretary