

HAMILTON COUNTY CEMETERY COMMISSION

33 N. 9th Street, Suite L-21, Noblesville, IN 46060-2218

31 January, 2019

To: Board of Commissioners
Hamilton County, Indiana

2018 marked the passing of two long-time members of the Hamilton County Cemetery Commission: the Commissions' founder, Joe Burgess and successor as President, Herald Demaree. Their leadership helped to establish Hamilton County as a benchmark to which other Indiana counties can look to in preservation of their pioneer cemeteries.

The Township Trustees for Hamilton County attended the April meeting of the HCCC. In attendance were Tom Kenley (Noblesville Twp.), John Patrick (Adams Twp.), Diane Crim (Wayne Twp.), Suzanna Hobson (Fall Creek Twp.), Terri Wolf (Washington Twp.) and Jamie Rulon (White River Township) and Christine Altman.

John Patrick shared that all of the cemeteries in Adams Township, but for Burris Cemetery (5) have been restored. John has budgeted \$2,000 in 2018 for routine maintenance of the Adams Township cemeteries.

Suzanna Hobson (Fall Creek Twp.) shared that all of the cemeteries in Fall Creek Township have been restored. Her office has budgeted \$13,261 for maintenance of their cemeteries in 2018. We discussed damage observed during a recent HCCC cemetery tour to the fence at the Helms Cemetery (94) from a large fallen tree. A base or stone was observed in the root ball of the tree.

Terri Wolf (Washington Twp.) shared that their office has budgeted \$7,000 for cemetery projects and maintenance in Washington Township in 2018.

Diane Crim (Wayne Twp.) shared that in 2017 her office had Hair Cemetery (68) restored with stones recovered and re-set and all cleaned. Fence was replaced along the south, west and north borders. Additionally, her office had fence repaired at the Ervin/Whisman/Wiseman Cemetery (73). In 2018, Diane's office has budgeted \$4,200 for routine maintenance and \$46,000 for badly needed tombstone restoration and fence repair in the Bethel Cemetery (68).

Jamie Rulon (White River Twp.) has budgeted \$1,200 for maintenance of cemeteries in White River Township in 2018.

Tom Kenley (Noblesville Twp.) shared that his township has had an increase in demand for pauper burials paid for by his office. He inquired regarding the legality of burials in inactive cemeteries in the event that Riverside Cemetery (60) runs out of burial plots for this purpose. Tom had received an unsolicited quote for documentation of existing graves in the Weaver Cemetery (64) which has an apparent low number of graves for the amount of ground that the cemetery occupies. Marian

recommended that Tom contact Jeanie Regan-Dinius at the Indiana DNR for further guidance before proceeding with burials in an inactive cemetery. Tom's office spent about \$20,000 on restoration projects in 2017, primarily for Caylor/Caylor Family Cemetery (62) restoration including replacement of fence. The Noblesville Township Trustee's office has budgeted \$5,600 for maintenance in 2018.

An increase in the 2018 appropriation for the Commission made possible the funding of restoration projects beyond normal grounds maintenance in our cemeteries. The first project began in June with the cleaning, repair and re-setting of stones in the Hurlock/Stony Creek Cemetery (63). Work progressed until August, with about half of the stones, fifty-eight (58), requiring attention being addressed. The cost of the work performed was Seventeen Thousand Eight Hundred Fifty Dollars (\$17,850.00).

In August ownership of the Gascho-Trissal Cemetery (61) in Noblesville Township was transferred to the Hamilton County Board of Commissioners were successfully completed

In October the HCC again worked with a volunteer group from the Carmel St. Mark's United Methodist Church to clear overgrown fence rows on two sides of the Stony Creek/Stoney Creek Cemetery (69). A survey was ordered and completed to facilitate the transfer of ownership of this cemetery to the Hamilton County Board of Commissioners in 2019.

In April and October the HCCC members toured the county cemeteries.

The HCCC spent \$43,177.99 to maintain the 25 cemeteries in their care in 2018. A summary sheet is attached describing maintenance projects and mowing frequency completed. A copy of the December 31, 2018 checking account statement and the final 2018 Treasurer's Report are attached.

Respectfully Submitted,

Robert L. Goode,
Secretary-Treasurer

cc: Hamilton County Council

cc: Hamilton County Auditor

cc: Indiana Historical Bureau