



Cemetery Restoration Advisory Board

September 11, 2019 Meeting Minutes

Village Hall

Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order by Vice Chair Wilson at 3:38 p.m. Members met at the Wagner Cemetery on Central College Road, adjacent to the Cedar Brook Road intersection.

Roll Call:

Brian Zets, Chair	A
Victor Wilson, Vice Chair	P
Bill Resch, Secretary	P
Nancy Ferguson	P
Thomas Shockey	A
Mary Fee	P
TBD	

Staff members present: Mark Nemec, Public Service Director, and Jennifer Mason, Clerk of Council. Public present: Bill Carleton and Mark Smith, Owner, Gravestone Transformations.

Approval of the August 14, 2019 meeting minutes:

Vice Chair Wilson asked if there were any changes to the proposed minutes. Hearing none, Secretary Resch moved to approve the August 14, 2019 minutes. Member Ferguson seconded. All members voted to approve the August 14, 2019 meeting minutes.

Approval of the Agenda:

Vice Chair Wilson asked if there were any proposed changes to the agenda. Hearing none, Member Ferguson moved to approve the agenda. Member Fee seconded and all members voted to approve the agenda.

Hearing of Visitors:

None.

Tour of Wagner Cemetery and Discussion:

Clerk's note – a few pictures of Wagner Cemetery taken by the Clerk are attached.

Member Ferguson reviewed New Albany settlement history, starting with early settlers who established a school/church and cemetery at the site. Member Ferguson described

the first building as a log cabin school and house of worship. A brick church was later built where the local Lion's Club was currently housed. It was one of the oldest buildings in New Albany. Member Ferguson described Noble Landon moving into the area from Johnstown, improving the land, and selling it off to others coming in. He started further south than the Wagner Cemetery because of three existing roads.

Members toured the cemetery. Mr. Smith told members that the sandstone headstones were the oldest in the cemetery. The local sandstone was yellow, not brown, as was evident on a recently broken headstone.

Member Fee noted that the Wagner Cemetery was established in 1827, prior to the New Albany Cemetery, which was started in 1851. Vice Chair Wilson asked and Member Ferguson answered that the cemetery had not been searched with ground penetrating sonar. Mr. Smith noted that some headstones were facing opposite of the traditional direction. He didn't know if someone fixing the headstones placed them that way, or if that was how the cemetery was started. Mr. Smith and members discussed what it would take to mend broken markers. Sandstone headstones were weaker. Mr. Resch asked and Mr. Smith answered that Wagner Cemetery contained sandstone and marble markers. Members noted stacks of headstones.

Member Fee observed that there were some flags at veteran's graves. Director Nemec said that the Public Service Department placed some flags, but not all. Member Fee stated that Plain Township placed the flags at Maplewood Cemetery.

Member Ferguson and Mr. Smith talked about getting a WPA map of the grave plots. Mr. Smith told members that the downside of WPA maps was that they showed rows, but seldom showed names. Sometimes veterans' graves were indicated. Pickaway County kept records of veterans' names and war designations. Member Ferguson recalled that Franklin County Genealogical Society made a list of persons interred at Wagner Cemetery, but did not indicate grave locations, in 1979. The Ealy House had the list. Mr. Smith stated that, if the list was in chronological order, that could help identify where the graves were.

Mr. Smith indicated where a grave marker showed power lawnmower damage. He opined that power lawnmowers were the worst thing to happen to old cemeteries. Members and staff discussed cemetery lawn maintenance. Director Nemec told members that the Public Service Department purchased a push mower and city staff mowed the New Albany Cemetery.

Members discussed locations of graves in relation to the location and direction of headstones. In the case of monuments, Mr. Smith said that wives were typically on the left sides of monuments. Sometimes monuments would be placed at a 45 degree angle

to accommodate a husband and wife. Mr. Smith cautioned that footstones did not always match the headstones they were nearest. Old graves were not always lined up.

Members spotted a carver's name in a headstone.

Member Fee said that sometimes useful records could be found in family bibles. These were often passed down rather than thrown away. Mr. Smith added that some could be found on Ebay and some were donated to universities. Vice Chair Wilson suggested checking with Otterbein University.

Mr. Smith suggested that the existing tree stump in the cemetery be removed. Members discussed the possible location of the school/church. Vice Chair Wilson wondered if the foundation could be found. Mr. Smith suggested matching headstones and bases. He also suggested picking a corner and working out from there. He would chose the southwest corner. Members, staff, and Mr. Smith discussed what was involved with probing the ground. Mr. Smith said it was a tedious process. A probe needed to go at least 1 foot deep. Even ground penetrating radar missed items.

Vice Chair Wilson solicited opinions on the surrounding fencing. Member Fee wanted to see it replaced. Member Ferguson speculated that neighbors would also like to see it replaced. Mr. Smith added that, often, neighbors didn't support the old cemeteries and would prefer them gone. Vice Chair Wilson asked about residential development green space requirements. Member Ferguson suggested it would be interesting to get the archeologist at EMH&T to come over and look at Wagner Cemetery.

Member Ferguson asked Mr. Smith about creating an estimate to restore Wagner Cemetery. Mr. Smith said that pricing was generally per monument. He counted 140-160 headstones. There were also footstones. 40-50 headstones were broken. Roughly another 90 needed to be reset. There were also the stacked tablets to consider. Mr. Smith described a process whereby the city could choose certain monuments to be restored by marking them with flags, a picture, or a number. Member Ferguson wanted as many as possible to be restored and requested a quote for the whole project. As a fallback position, she suggested requesting \$10,000 a year to restore the cemetery in stages. Mr. Smith noted that townships often budgeted for restoration with an annual amount. He would walk the cemetery with a representative and they would pick the markers to be restored, perhaps 25-28 at a time. There were several ways to arrive at which markers would be chosen. Mr. Smith estimated that restoring Wagner would not take much more time than restoring the New Albany Cemetery because the headstones were closer to their original locations. He only spotted one concrete headstone. He preferred to restore cemeteries in sections rather than spending all summer in one location.

Mr. Carleton asked about the availability for grants for restoration. Member Ferguson said that a previous search didn't turn them up. Mr. Smith stated that the Department of Commerce set aside \$100,000 for restoration, divided into \$1,000 grants. They'd had 143 requests for the 100 grants.

Member Ferguson asked Mr. Smith to estimate for the whole project. Members discussed adding in a quote for the fence. Members liked the Maplewood fence which was nicely designed along the road where the entrances were. Member Fee observed the Wagner Cemetery only needed one entrance. Member Ferguson expressed that she wanted all four sides to be fenced with the wrought iron, with the brick pillars at the front. Mr. Carleton recalled there was another company which did similar fencing at a lesser price.

Members discussed the status of the walls designed for the New Albany Cemetery, sometimes called the Founders Cemetery, in the Rose Run 2 designs.

Members discussed the cemetery flag up-lighting, which had been improved from when it was run with a car battery, but was still weak. Member Ferguson suggested getting a quote on better lighting.

Discussion of Historical Marker Text:

Members agreed to table this discussion until the next meeting when Chair Zets could be present.

Other Business:

None.

Schedule the next meeting:

The next meeting was scheduled for Wednesday, October 9th at 3:30 p.m. at Village Hall.

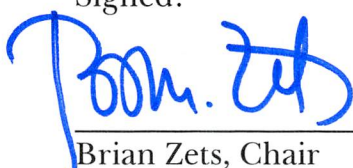
Poll members for comment:

None.

Adjournment:

Member Fee moved and Member Resch seconded to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 4:42 p.m.

Signed:


Brian Zets, Chair


Bill Resch, Secretary

10-9-2019
Date



NEW ALBANY

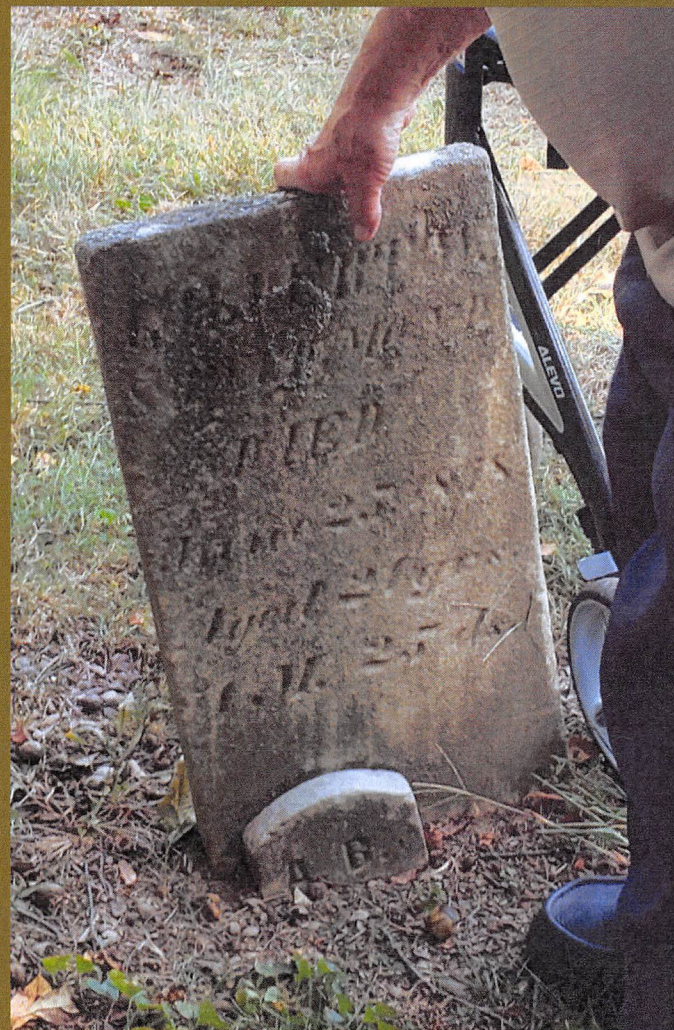
Wagner Cemetery on Central College Road





NEW ALBANY







NEW ALBANY

