CEMETARY RESTORATION ADVISORY BOARD
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
Tuesday, January 25, 2022

Call to Order:
The meeting was called to order by Chair Zets at 3:33 p.m.

Roll Call:

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

Staff present for CRAB: Clerk of Council Jennifer Mason, Public Information Officer Josh Poland, and Planner Anna van der Zwaag.

Approval of the November 30, 2021 meeting minutes:
Chair Zets moved to approve the November 30, 2021 minutes as submitted. Member Carleton seconded and all members voted to approve the November 30, 2021 minutes as submitted.

Approval of the Agenda:
Chair Zets moved to approve the agenda. Member Carleton seconded and the all members voted to approve the agenda.

Hearing of Visitors:
None.

Other Business:

New Albany Cemetery website
Public Information Officer Josh Poland read the list of items he received from Member Ferguson by email regarding what she wanted to see on the website (attached). Members agreed with those items. Clerk Mason wrote up possible web pages on the whiteboard including: CRAB report to council, Who is CRAB? (group photos), OVA report, NA Cemetery restoration, List of people buried - where buried - if moved, History of New Albany Cemetery, Link to Wagner Cemetery, Link to Rose Run 2/Vets Memorial. Clerk Mason stated she would send the documents and pictures she had to PIO Poland.

Members discussed where the headstone pieces that couldn't be identified were stored. They recalled a conversation about incorporating the pieces into the wall around the headstones.

<u>Historical Marker Application</u>
Members reviewed the Statement of Significance emailed by Member Ferguson (<u>attached</u>). They praised the copious detail Member Ferguson included. Chair Zets asked everyone to read it thoroughly between meetings to discuss next time.

Schedule next meeting: The board agreed to set the next regular meeting for February 15, 2022 due to the chair and clerk having a conflict with the regular date. The board agreed to meet next on February 15, 2022 at 3:30 pm.
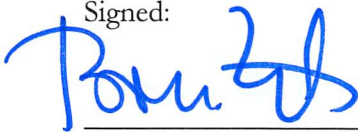
Poll members for comment:
Members discussed holding a farewell reception for Member Ferguson who was moving out of state. Clerk Mason said she would get in touch to Member Ferguson to see if a good date could be found.

Adjournment:
The meeting was adjourned at 4:17 pm

Signed:

_____
Brian Zets, Chair

_____ 2-15-2022
Bill Resch, Secretary   Date

Jen,

Here is the list of items from Nancy plus what we talked about today:

1) I have a lot of newspaper articles, pictures and Historical Society newsletters which you could borrow. It includes some pictures of Mark Smith restoring monuments and Arloia Walton (a founder of the Historical Society) trying to get people in the town excited about restoring the cemetery. I also have pictures of Ohio Valley Archaeology "at work" in the cemetery.

2) Several people have written "histories" of the cemetery and I could share those.

3) We could include Ohio Valley Archaeology, Inc's report it completed in 2016. I only have one "clean" copy and I'm asking Jennifer to make some more. I need one to keep at the Historical Society and the Historic Marker application needs at least 3.

4) We should include a list of everyone who has served on the CRAB Board since its founding in 2015. They've worked hard and have really hung in there.

5) We need to have a comprehensive list of all the people who are buried in the cemetery and all of the people who were once buried there, but have been reinterred to other cemeteries (mostly Maplewood).

6) We should include a short list of the 12 markers the City needs to reproduce because the originals were lost, stolen or not repairable.

7) We could include plans for Rose Run II.

8) Who is CRAB (history and members) and what does it do?

9) CRAB report to Council from roughly 2018 or 2019 (June?)

10) Wagnor Cemetery information

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9. Statement of Significance- (Why does this place deserves recognition on an Ohio Historical Marker? Include support for all statements and document each statement with footnotes or endnotes.)

The New Albany Cemetery (1854-1881)

The earliest settlers of European descent, came to Plain Township about 1800. It is believed the first real estate transaction in Plain Township took place that year. Dudley Woodbridge acquired 4000 acres of the United States Military Lands (the southwest quarter of Plain Township) from the United States President John Adams. [Lentz, Ed. "As it Were", *This Week, New Albany News*, October 8, 2015.] The earliest pioneers included Joseph Scott, John Huffman (also spelled Hoffman) and families with the last names of Baughman, Hills, Byington, Waters, Yantis (also spelled Yantes), Williams, Kohn, McCurdy, Smith, Triplett, Moore, among others. [Martin, William T., *History of Franklin County,* 1858. Pages 220-221.]

Plain Township (Franklin County), Ohio was organized in 1810. It included present day Jefferson Township until 1815 and Blendon Township until 1816. [Martin, page 220.] A few small villages known as LaFayetteville and Mt. Pleasant, were platted but never materialized. [Martin, page 223]

In May of 1837, Noble Landon and William Yantis, two adjacent land owners, laid out the town of New Albany. [Franklin County, Ohio Recorder's Office, Deed Book 17, page 278 and Deed Book 41, page 544.] The main road of the town (High Street), was the boundary line between their two properties. While Landon and Yantis founded and platted the town together, they were not partners in their real estate venture. Landon owned the lots on the east side of High Street and Yantis owned those on the west side. Each sold his lots on his own terms. [Martin, page 223]

In 1838, the first post office was established in New Albany and the post office was called Hope. Noble Landon was commissioned as the first postmaster on May 15, 1838 and continued in this role until 1853. [Martin, page 224]

The oldest headstone in the New Albany Cemetery records the death of Anna C. Benedict, daughter of J.C. Benedict who died at the age of 5 months and 9 days on March 9, 1837. It is unknown whether her body was reinterred in the New Albany Cemetery or she was buried in a place where the cemetery was later formed. [New Albany News, Volume 8, No. 52, "Them Bones", March 21, 2001, page 1]

Elizabeth Yantis (age 52 years), wife of founder William Yantis, died on January 12, 1849. She was buried on property owned by her husband, as were her daughter-in-law, Amanda Alvina Closson Yantis and Amanda's son, William H. Yantis, who both died in 1854. The site of these burials was soon to become part of the "New Albany Cemetery", just south of Rose Run Creek and east of Johnstown Road. [Ferguson, Nancy, "Addendum to Ohio Valley Archaeology Report", 2017.]

On November 16, 1881, Dennis and Ann Strait, Alexander and Cynthia Doran and William F. and Lyana Taylor purchased 10 acres known as the "Jesse Kohn farm", about ¼ mile south of the New Albany Cemetery, and established the newly formed Maplewood Cemetery Association. The Association later turned the new "Maple Wood" Cemetery over to the Plain Township Trustees. Maplewood Cemetery was on higher land and not prone to flooding. [See Plain Township's website at https://plaintownship.org/cemeteries/history-of-maplewood-cemetery/] After Maplewood was established, the New Albany Cemetery fell out of use.

Between 1882 and 1884, 73 bodies were reinterred at Maplewood from other cemeteries in the area and 58 of those bodies are believed to have been reinterred from the New Albany Cemetery. [Death book and Record of Interments for Plain Township, New Albany, Ohio. See also, Doran, Alexander, "List of Re-Interments in Maple Wood Cemetery From Other Grave Yards, 1882-1883."]

In 1978, the long neglected New Albany Cemetery was significantly vandalized. [New Albany News, Volume 6, No. 7. "Village Cemetery remains buried." October 5, 1978]

In 1979, the Franklin County Genealogical Society (FCGS) "read" the stones in the New Albany Cemetery and reported "very few stones remain." It recorded the names written on the stones which were still visible (not buried). Despite the vandalism, the FCGS found and recorded 25 stones at that time. [Volume IV, Franklin County, Ohio Cemeteries, Blendon & Plain Townships, page iii.]

In 2015, the City of New Albany formed the Cemetery Restoration Advisory Board (CRAB) to lead efforts to restore the cemetery. Eventually, the City hired Ohio Valley Archaeology, Inc (OVAI) to do a Magnetic Gradient Survey, a Ground-Penetrating Radar Survey and use other exploratory techniques on the cemetery. OVAI identified evidence of 134 grave sites, including the sites of individuals who were later reinterred to other cemeteries. OAVI also uncovered many headstones which had been buried beneath the ground during the vandalism.

Between 63 and 83 graves still remain in the New Albany Cemetery. [Burks, Dr. Jarrod and Pecora, Dr. Albert. "Rediscovering the New Albany Cemetery—A Report of the Ohio Valley Archaeology, Inc, 2016.]

In 2018, the City of New Albany hired historic cemetery conservator, Mark Smith of Gravestone Transformations to clean, restore and reset the original monuments. While a few monuments were placed in what was thought to be their original location. The remaining monuments were placed in areas with no existing gravesites so there would be no confusion for future researchers. An additional 12 monuments are waiting to be reproduced because the originals were not restorable or were missing altogether.

Sixty eight early residents of New Albany are now associated with the cemetery through headstones, footstones, previously documented stones which are now missing [Franklin County Genealogical Society, page 44] and other historical references.

On July 29, 1854 Jesse Kohn, an adjacent landowner, sold 1/5 acre to Township Trustees Jacob Ulry, Daniel Horlocker and John McCurdy for $5. The deed specified that it was "for the use and purposes of a graveyard or burying ground for the inhabitants of New Albany and vicinity." [Heishman and Saveson, "The Old New Albany Cemetery", New Albany Plain Township Historical Society newsletter, 1992.] [See also, Franklin County (Ohio) Recorder Deed Book56, pages 396-398.]

On August 14, 1854 William Yantis sold approximately 1/3 acre to the Township Trustees for the same purpose at a cost of $5. [Franklin County (Ohio) Recorder Deed Book 56, Pages 396-398.]

On January 4, 1855 Elizabeth Arnold sold approximately .029 acres on the eastern side of the cemetery to the Township Trustees, to conform the boundary of the cemetery. The sale price was listed as $1.00. With this sale, the total acreage of the New Albany Cemetery became .568 acres.

In 1856, the Village of New Albany was incorporated. [Martin, page 223]. The location of the New Albany Cemetery was reflected on the 1872 map of New Albany, Ohio. [Franklin County Engineer, New Albany 1872 map.]

Between 1855 and 1881, approximately 134 people were buried in the New Albany Cemetery including Noble Landon and his wife, Lovisa Landon. Noble Landon was not only the founder of New Albany and its first postmaster, he was a carpenter/homebuilder and a businessman. He established the first business in New Albany: "Landon's Corners", a local inn and restaurant, and donated land for the Methodist Church on the corner of Third Street and Main Street. Before founding New Albany, he lived in Licking County where he was the first clerk and Justice of the Peace in St. Albans township. Although he was a young man at the time, he was given the privilege of naming St. Albans township. He chose to name it after St. Albans, Vermont where he had lived as a boy. He had also served as the postmaster of Johnstown, Ohio for a time.

Noble Landon's daughters, Arabella and Isabella, are also buried in the New Albany Cemetery.

According to the descendants of founder William Yantis, he was buried in the New Albany Cemetery but there is no marker associated with his grave. [Ferguson, Nancy. Addendum to Ohio Valley Archaeology Report", 2017]. It is logical to assume he would be buried with his wife, his son, his daughter-in-law and grandson in the cemetery he helped found.

The headstones in the New Albany Cemetery contain the names of many of New Albany's earliest settlers: Beecher, Ulry, Phelps, Ogden, Ginn, Phelps, Mead, Landon, Yantis, Miller, Staffer, Robbins, Conkle, Benedict, Baughman, Boston, Campbell and Kohn. Silas Ogden, who was elected New Albany's first Mayor after the village was incorporated in 1856, was also buried in the New Albany Cemetery.