

Minutes of Mount Vernon Cemetery Commission

March 11, 2025

The Cemetery Commission met at Mount Vernon City Hall on Tuesday, March 11, 2025 at 6:30 P.M.. Commissioners present at City Hall were Mary Evans, Ruth Horton, Machele Pelkey, and city liaison Joe Jennison.

Guest Ginny Randall of 142 Lincoln Dr started the meeting with a list of the following items that she thought should be addressed in the future.

1. Dogs should be kept on a leash and their business picked up and thrown away properly.
2. A trash can in the cemetery would enable people to dispose of sticks & artificial flowers that were blown about.
3. Police surveillance due to drug deals that take place in the cemetery.
4. The wood bench immediately to the right as you enter by the gate needs to be thrown away due to its condition.

Minutes of February 11 meeting were approved by Ruth Horton and Machele Pelkey.

Motion by Mary Evans to have Joe Jennison take the minutes during the cemetery meetings was approved by Machele Pelkey and Ruth Horton. However due to complications this was overturned and the chair took the minutes.

Motion made by Mary Evans to appoint Ruth Horton, Machele Pelkey, Eric Siggins, and Mike Woods as vice-chairs was approved by Mary Evans and Machele Pelkey.

The Mount Vernon Masonic Lodge #112 has approved paying \$525 for Waln's & Bauman's grave markers to be repaired by John Heider, gravestone restoration specialist.

Elijah D. Waln's grave marker was identified in need of leveling for \$275. Waln was the very first treasurer for the Lodge with Amos Witter as WM in 1858. Waln opened the first dry goods store in Mount Vernon and was the first board secretary for the newly established "Iowa Conference Male and Female Seminary" now called Cornell College.

Fred Ayers Bauman and his brother Augustus Ayers Bauman moved to Mount Vernon with their family in 1867. Fred A. Bauman was WM in 1911 & 1912. His brother Augustus was a member of the Mount Vernon Lodge and charter member of the Mount Vernon Lions Club. Augustus' grave marker needs to be leveled, repaired and reset at a cost of \$250.

Discussion of establishing cemetery policies and regulations was tabled for a time when all five cemetery commissioners were present. Discussion of Lisbon's cemetery policies and regulations was also tabled.

Cemetery Commission Goals pertaining to Records & Documents Maintenance, Monument & Headstone Restoration, Grounds Maintenance & Landscaping, Promoting & publicizing the cemetery will be a continuing conversation.

Under Old Business:

The February 26, 2025 meeting with Cedar Memorial Cemetery staff with Ruth, Machele and Mary will be discussed at greater length at April's meeting.

Joe Jennison reported he has entered the cemetery information copied from the old cemetery book from A-M on his Excel database.

Eldon Downs will have the old "tube" fence and flagged trees & shrubs removed during the summer. Ginny Randall warned that there are water mains underneath the "tube" fence.

Mary Evans will talk to Mike Woods about setting a time to organize the cemetery garage to make room for "flagged" artifacts. The new Polaroid Go Generation camera might be helpful in documenting the artifacts before storing them in the garage.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:32 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Chair Mary E. Evans