

The Cemetery Commission met at the Mount Vernon City Hall Conference Room on Tuesday, May 13, 2025 at 6:30 p.m. Commissioners present were: Mary Evans, Ruth Horton and Machele Pelkey.

Minutes of the April 8, 2025 meeting were approved.

The following topics were discussed:

Maintenance of cemetery records and documents - Mary would like to present a document that outlines cemetery policies and procedures to the City/City Council by September 1, 2025. This will require some additional work sessions for the commission.

Restoration and preservation of cemetery monuments - Mary has begun researching information needed in order to move forward with the restoration of headstones for Civil War Veterans in the cemetery.

Maintenance of cemetery grounds - Ruth reported on a meeting with Cait O'Connor regarding clean up along a portion of the cemetery fenceline. When the project is concluded at the end of August, it will earn Kate the rank of Eagle Scout.

Ruth also discussed dates for removal of seasonal cemetery arrangements and suggested this be part of the policies that need to be written for the cemetery.

Discussion of burial services offered in Iowa - Machele reported that Mary de la Garza is unlikely to provide the drone assessment this Spring. The semester is ending and students aren't available. In addition, Mary will be out of the country for several weeks. A Fall date will be coordinated.

Mary de la Garza has suggested that a GPR assessment be done in addition to the LiDar and thermal imaging from the drones. Machele has contacted several providers but there's been no availability. She's waiting for an answer from Glenn Storey who is with the University of Iowa.

Mary Evans visited Oakland Cemetery in Iowa City and shared information about green burials. There can be a separate designated area for green burials or they can be interspersed among graves with headstones. The commission discussed the importance of record keeping.

Old Business:

The paperwork for new headstones for Mitchell and Holman (War of 1812) has been completed and submitted. There will be an approximate time frame of 2 months before the arrival of the stones.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:51 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Machele Pelkey

Meeting was adjourned at 7:43 p.m.
Respectfully submitted,
Machele Pelkey