

Friends of the Bryson City Cemetery

15 June 2017

Community Room, United Community Bank of Bryson City

The meeting was convened at 1:05 p.m.

In attendance were the following:

Don Casada, Susan Casada, Kelly Carnes (and children), Christine Colcord, Joyce Cooper, Dean Sutton, Ivan Gibby, Jessie Greyer, Wendy Meyers, O'Neal Muse, Betty Sandlin, Austin Shuler, and Sarah Robinson

Minutes

Minutes from May 2017 were read and approved.

Financials

- The FBCC made \$260 from the raffle held at the Heritage Festival on Memorial Day weekend. Additionally, we gained several new members and received some donations.
- Dan Pierce presented on his new book, "Hazel Creek: The Life and Death of an Iconic Mountain Community" at the Swain County Genealogical Society meeting in May 2017, and had copies of the books for sale at the meeting. He donated half of the proceeds from the book sale to the FBCC – approximately \$135.
- The treasurer's report was reviewed and approved.
- Unanimously approved.

Grounds

- It was proposed that Austin Shuler, from the Swain County High School JROTC, perform some of the maintenance work for the cemetery this summer. His hiring was unanimously approved.
- The cemetery was in excellent shape for Memorial Day; Don was assisted by Cameron and Kyle Ponchot and Hillside Baptist Church.
- Don noted that some individuals are putting flowers along the length of the grave. This makes mowing very difficult. Discussion was held on this issue as to what the FBCC can, cannot, or should do about this. Possible solutions included putting up a note on the notice board to use either saddle arrangements or vases, or to state that they can remain over the winter but will be taken and thrown away when the mowing starts in the spring. Also under consideration is the idea of identifying the specific individuals placing the flowers along the length of the graves and sending them a letter with our concerns.
- The signboard is up but not yet finished. It will be painted in the fall.

- A shed needs to be built which will cost about \$1,200.00. Dan Meyers will help, as will Mike Colcord. Would like to have that done by the time of the next meeting. A motion to move forward on the project was made and approved unanimously.

Monuments

- No new monuments will be placed until fall.

Website and Media

- Don is beginning to establish linkages between all the individuals buried in the cemetery.
- We need more pictures for the website.

Commercial Tour Concern

- Tim Hall led a (commercial) storytelling episode at the cemetery on 6/13/2017. As the FBCC opposes commercialization of the cemetery, and the cemetery plots are all privately owned, this is felt to be unacceptable.
- After discussion, it was decided that Don will draft a letter regarding this issue. The FBCC will approve the letter; it will then be put up on the signboard and also delivered to Tim Hall.

Presentation

- Wendy Meyers and Joyce Cooper provided a presentation on the members of the Mendenhall and Cooper families buried in the cemetery.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 2:15 p.m. The next meeting will be held at 1:00 p.m. on July 13, 2017 at the United Community Bank in Bryson City.