

AGENDA # H.1
Scio Township Board of Trustees
Presentation by Daughters of American Revolution on Popkins Burial Grounds on Pratt Road

FOR MEETING DATE OF: April 9, 2024

PREPARED ON: April 3, 2024

PREPARED BY: Jessica Flintoft

SUBMITTED BY: Clerk

ITEM TYPE: Discussion Only

BACKGROUND: Popkins Cemetery is on Pratt Road near Honey Creek, on an abandoned parcel that is not taxed. Periodically, there have been community driven efforts to clear the overgrowth and maintain the cemetery. Within the past decade, a Boy Scout Troop partnered with others to clean up the cemetery and placed a sign "Popkins Cemetery (Scio Township logo)." Generally, Scio Township is not responsible for cemeteries in the Township, though this is a responsibility the Township could choose to take on through adoption of a future ordinance. Right now, the Clerk is interested in supporting the most recent effort to clean up the cemetery. The Daughters of the American Revolution has embarked on an effort to clean up the cemeteries containing American Revolutionary War veterans, and place historic markers on several of these. Within Popkins Cemetery is buried Sylvester Richmond, a Revolutionary War veteran.

The agreement adopted by the Board of Trustees on March 19th made clear that the Township supports DAR's placement of this historic marker, and supports their efforts to clean up the cemetery. A Boy Scout troop will likely be involved. And, the Clerk is recruiting volunteers. Further, the Clerk has confirmed the support of the immediate neighbor of the cemetery.

Special thanks to Denise M. Frost, Historian with the Sarah Caswell Angell Chapter of the DAR, for bringing this important issue to the Township's attention. Clean up day is planned for May 4th 10am. Please let the Clerk know if you are interested in helping with this community project.

Tonight's presentation is by volunteers working on this initiative, to educate the Board of Trustees and community at large about the significance of Popkins.

Presenters include Lauren Smith, Regent for the Sarah Caswell Angell Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution; Phil Jackson, member of the Sons of the American Revolution; Lisa Heller, Regent of the Ypsilanti Chapter; and Jayden Song, Boy Scout who has taken on Popkins as his Eagle Project.