



HOWARD COUNTY CEMETERY PRESERVATION ADVISORY BOARD
3430 Court House Drive ■ Ellicott City, Maryland 21043

Administered by the Department of Planning and Zoning

www.howardcountymd.gov

410-313-2350

FAX 410-313-3042

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2016 CEMETERY PRESERVATION ADVISORY BOARD MEETING MINUTES

May

July

September



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May 2016 Minutes

Tuesday, May 10, 2016; 10:00 -11:30 a.m.

The quarterly meeting of the Cemetery Preservation Advisory Board was held on Tuesday, May 10, 2016 at 3430 Court House Drive, Ellicott City, Maryland.

Members Present: Fred Dorsey, Liz Larney, Chip Plitt, David Zinner, Mike Bennett,

Members Absent: Lee Preston, Dottie Moore, Matthew Smithson

Staff Present: Beth Burgess, Ken Short, Yvette Zhou

Public: Edward Glawe

Approval of April's minutes: Ms. Burgess is working on them.

General Topics

- Board Updates:
 - Intro of Board: Self introductions for new DPZ staff.
- Reports
 - Budget update. None to report; still requesting \$4,000 for cemetery restoration grants. Mr. Zinner suggested asking the Coalition to Protect MD Burial Sites as we are still seeking a non-profit to receive funding for distribution

- Oella Cemetery Clean up :

Mr. Smithson attended Oella cemetery clean up on May 7, 2016 in Baltimore County. Before and after photos were shown to Board. There were about thirty people that volunteered for the clean-up but only about a third of the cemetery area was completed as it is a large cemetery site that hasn't been maintained for year. A lists of do/don't of best practices were exchanged amongst the volunteers supplied by CPAB. A fall clean-up will be scheduled to continue the effort.

- Community Education/Outreach:

Mr. Zinner had several suggestions. Geo-caching around cemetery sites seeking and learning history from clues. He will create a geocaching scavenger hunt concept to present. CPAB discussed ideas like: a summer passport idea. Wegmans could be a sponsor (if allowed) and historical cemetery passports could be distributed. A bike-about where kids have to answer questions could be an educational and fun outing. Prizes or rewards at the end could be available, a puzzle that leads you to the Howard County fair in August for a free ticket admission as price for completing the hunt was suggested. Maryland Historical Society should be a resource and support. Mr. Bennett advised importance of identify which cemeteries to be selected for this

event as some are better maintained than others. Also, the coordination of geographic location for participant's accessibility whether driving or biking. All agreed a partnership with Genealogy Society and Preservation Coalition is a good way to identify resources and get local businesses to donate prizes in attracting participants.

- Rosa Bonheur

Ms. Larney researched parcels from the 1917 old subdivision plat and found current owner is Memorial LLC. There were no other contact details in SDAT about Memorial LLC only the authorized person being Charles Lagasse, Lawyer, in Owings Mills. No cemeteries were on tax records; only land records show where the burials are. It is still unclear how the developer is planning on the only entrance and amenity space to be on cemetery property in the only wooded section of this site. Ms. Burgess spoke with Ms. Warden with Rosa Bonheur Society. Ms. Warden is requesting a meeting with County Executive and Dr. Ball to share her views about the adjacent development and its impact on the cemetery property. The current proposed plan shows the majority of the cemetery undeveloped but if the route 1 access is limited in the future, then the cemetery will become land locked without road access. The current plan shows access from Dorsey Road being eliminated due to the main entrance for the housing and the hedge and fence separating the parcels. Mr. Zinner asked if cemetery can be preserved as an open place with the development so that it is protected in the future. Mr. Pitt advised the property needs to be studied by a civil engineer and planner and for a plan to be submitted to the County as a first step.

- HPC updates:

Mt. Gregory United Methodist Church: An update about the bathroom being located over graves already noted as having been asphalted over by the parking lot. Charles Dorsey, a representative of the church, attended the Historic Preservation Commission meeting last week where he showed a photo from 1946 of the Cooksville School that was at the location of the proposed addition with the paved parking lot. The elders at the church (to the best of their knowledge) stated there was only one cemetery located far on the south side of the property near Route 97 and there was never graves where they were rumored to be under the parking. Ms. Moore who went to school there is researching concern as well.

- HOA – deeded cemeteries

Mr. Dorsey is trying to assist HOAs that are deeded with the responsibilities of a cemetery, historic ruins or structures that are liabilities to the group and also expensive to maintain. There are only two HOAs currently as models then take on more as they come up. Although most developers will demolish the ruins prior to development, those that were left are HOA responsibility to maintain. Ms. Burgess noted HPC Member, Bruno Reich looking to purchase Squirrel Hill as an example of preservation in a subdivision. Mr. Reich was not at last week's HPC meeting to share further insights.

Additional Items:

- John Day Burial Grounds 3741 Old Columbia Pike.

A concerned citizen emailed Ms. Burgess about the purchase potential of the property for development since it is listed as tax exempt. Ms. Larney shared the owner was Fiber Inc. and from 1996 till 2011 the property was conveyed to Doris Burgess, the surviving wife. Ms. Larney researched the deed which has conveyance issues over the years; there is something not right about the deed in its accounts and filed articles. Potential cost to research the property could be \$5,000-\$10,000 of. Green Cross garage LLC is the current owner. Ms. Larney's Mom's friend mentioned it was sited as the "old Civil War cemetery". Mr. Short noted in Civil war years, soldiers were buried coming through B&O railroad, and the land owner donated the land for burial. Mr. Glawe offered to create a mosaic survey with color coding of property boundary. Mr. Bennett asked where to search for transit soldier who were buried there. Mr. Short said army of records. Further research is needed by the Board. Ms. Burgess can share findings with the concerned citizen and potential purchaser that a tax sale is not an option, that the parcel should not be considered an adverse

possession and that there is verbal confirmation that this was a civil war burial and that an interested party should confirm that the areas where burials are not located.

- Turf Valley Property

Mr. Short stated there was a former 166 acres farm house on Turf Valley where Andrew Dorsey was renting from Charles Carroll in 1843. There were burials on this parcel but has since been lost. The cemetery is not in our inventory and the Board needs to survey the area where it may be for further discussion.

Meeting Adjourned at 11:40am.

Next Steps/Action Items:

- Ms. Burgess to contact Coalition to Protect MD Burial Sites about grant management.
- Ms. Burgess to provide CPAB packets to new members, past 3 meeting minutes and maps.
- Mr. Zinner to work on Outreach proposal and possible partners.
- Mr. Glawe to work with Mr. Larney on John Day Burial grounds.
- Mr. Dorsey to meet with Mr. Weinstein concerning HOA's.
- Ms. Moore to follow up about Mt. Gregory United Methodist Church.
- All bring suggestions for Hands on History give away or demonstrations or means to attract people
- All consider roll in 2017 outreach.

Upcoming meetings

- Tuesday, July 12, 2016 at 10am in George Howard building
- Tuesday, September 13, 2016 at 10am in George Howard building
- Tuesday, November 8, 2016 at 10am in George Howard building



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July 2016 Minutes

Tuesday, July 12, 2016; 10:00 -11:30 a.m.

The quarterly meeting of the Cemetery Preservation Advisory Board was held on Tuesday, July 12, 2016 at 3430 Court House Drive, Ellicott City, Maryland.

Members Present: Mike Bennett, Fred Dorsey, Liz Larney, Dottie Moore, Matthew Smithson

Absent: Lee Preston, Chip Plitt, David Zinner

Staff Present: Beth Burgess, Ken Short, Yvette Zhou

Public: Edward Glawe

General Topics

○ Budget Report:

The budget had been approved for \$5,000 to provide grants to historic cemeteries in need of clean-up or restoration.

Ms. Burgess spoke to Ms. McGuckian about the Coalition to Protect MD Burial Sites being the recipient of that grant for distribution but the Coalition is in mid-process in changing their non-profit status to be more donation oriented so the timing is bad for them to take on that role.

Ms. Burgess just asked the Howard County Genealogical Society to be the recipient to the grant but has not discussed with them in detail nor has a reply by them.

Mr. Zinner was absent but shared with Ms. Burgess prior to the meeting suggesting CPAB seeks partners in this grant opportunity to raise more local awareness and to support the owners seeking the grants. Mr. Zinner suggested reaching out to the Master Gardeners to be available to help with creating native planting plans for sites. He suggested having resources made available and discounts for cemetery work. For example, local nurseries could offer discount on native plants; there could be a resource or discount on monument repairs. There could be matching funding to have this grant double in its amount.

Mr. Dorsey suggested when identifying the program administrator, it is important to keep in mind accountability and responsibility of the recipient to carry out the mission of the Cemetery Preservation Advisory Board. The Board should offer very clear parameters and criteria to the recipient of this grant. Mr. Dorsey suggested the max grant awarded per project should not be preset but rather be determined by the Board based on individual projects. A good collaborating partner would be the Eagle Scout to build wooden benches or install signs to educate the public.

Others felt a maximum of \$500 grants could at least provide 10 cemeteries support. Ms. Larney inquired of the cost to repair headstones. Mr. Dorsey shared the four stones at Belmont were only foundation and footing work and the cost was \$1100 total. Mr. Bennett answered Mr. Smithson's question about local monument companies by suggesting Mr. Walt Tegeler of W.S.

Tegeler Monument Co and Mr. Jay Parson of Merkle Monuments as good and reputable people. The Board was in support to these ideas and suggestions and thought nurseries, arborists, surveyors, master gardeners, stone masons along with a suggestion of volunteers would all be helpful to coordinate in advance as a resource for cemetery owners.

Ms. Moore thought having a few Community Forums to promote education and outreach would be a good start. She expressed concern that those that need to know the information or opportunity are often left out of the loop so more networking and reaching out to older congregations would be helpful. She suggested a community clean-up day that should include the community, schools and courts.

Mr. Smithson liked the suggestion of having this meeting at the library. Mr. Dorsey discussed the positive attendance of 50+ people for both his His-story day cemetery presentation at Belmont and for Mr. Kuttler's talk at Miller Library. Mr. Short agreed that networking created a group for the future lobby of laws and legislation for the protection of cemeteries.

The Board discussed what County departments could provide to support a clean-up suggesting paper bags. Ms. Larney gave a summary to the plan that she thought could be launched in Sept with opening the grant and have the deadline be in the winter so that the grant projects could be done in the spring with a suggested work completed date of 60 days.

Ms. Larney and Mr. Smithson discussed marketing and the need to advertise and advocate at least three times for people to notice and the need for utilizing Facebook and other modern media tools. Ms. Burgess stated the PIO (Public Information Office) can assist in promoting the grant to the community and she would inquire about a Facebook page.

- 2016 Events & Outreach:
 - Hands on History plan: Mr. Zinner suggested having a separate easel with the grant information and forms available at the CPAB table. Mr. Smithson suggested emphasizing the tax credits.
 - Website: Ms. Zhou has updated the website. Ms. Burgess showed the Board the revisions.
 - Brochure: Ms. Zhou has updated the CPAB brochure. The Board will review after the meeting. Mr. Smithson suggested adding "Great for students seeking service hours" in the Volunteer section of the brochure.
 - Mr. Smithson suggested more modern outreach including existing media outlets such as Howard County's Facebook, Twitter, Instagram to piggyback on about CPAB outreach.
 - Application feedback: Hold off on the grant application. Begin outreach initiatives focusing on community spring cleanup, presentation and an outreach letter. The letter will include the summary of the inventory, tax credit opportunity, the grant, the spring community clean-up, the community forums and the resources from the County website and maps.
- Cemetery Updates:
 - Elm Street Development/ Redds Property:
 - Elm Street Development submitted an alternative compliance form with four topics, one of them being the removal of the graves between lots #33 and #34 to develop a house on each lot. Mr. Plitt shared in advance of the meeting that Elm Street Development needs to follow all laws and regulations regarding the proper procedures to disinter the graves if any are discovered. Mr. Dorsey stated the 2 grave stones were discovered after the ground penetrating radar (GPR) tests. The Board agreed the alternative compliance should be denied and recommends the graves remain in their current location. Mr. Bennett recommended no soil should be scratched without a funeral director on site to flag and identify any remains or soil from a burial. All agreed. Ms. Burgess will send written comments to Land Development requesting the denial of the alternative compliance.

- Rosa Bonheur Memorial Park #37-9:
 - A meeting was held with the developer of the adjacent parcel of Rosa Bonheur, Mr. Mark Levy, on Thursday, June 23. In attendance was Dr. Ball, Ms. Prium, Ms. Fielhauler, Ms. Warden, Mr. Lanier, Mr. Zinner, Ms. McGuckian, Ms. Gowan and Ms. Burgess. The meeting was focused on Mr. Levy's intent for development and his role as a neighbor to Rosa Bonheur. Specific points and agreements were not made. Mr. Levy and Ms. Warden agreed to meet July 25th to discuss more specific neighborly agreements and address a couple of design concerns. Mr. Zinner will attend that meeting.
- Other cemetery updates:
 - Rhine Stone Cemetery #24-7 at Pine Orchard- Mr. Bennett shared an update on the owner, Ms. Sun, moving forward with disinterring the graves in the back of the property where the storm water management facility is not properly honoring the remains. Ms. Sun has the State's Attorney letter and right now they are sending notices out to any possible relatives for notification. The plan is to have a plaque installed in the location of the existing graves and the remains will be moved to Meadowridge Memorial Park.
 - John Day Burial- Mr. Glawe created a Mosaic survey of the John Day Burial in Ellicott City where 4 Civil War soldiers are thought to be buried. Due to change of ownership in surrounding property, the site may have been disturbed. Ms. Burgess sent a letter to adjacent neighbors about the cemetery being confirmed in the County's view as a burial area.
- Laws & Legislation
 - HOA ownership: Mr. Dorsey met with Councilman Weinstein on July 11. Mr. Dorsey left the meeting early and continue discussions at September's meeting. Mr. Dorsey would like to see the Board focus more on laws and development review. Ms. Burgess agreed that legislation and law is where the effectiveness will be for cemetery protection but believes CPAB is already reviewing plans that involve cemeteries.

Additional Items:

None

Meeting Adjourned at 11:40am.

Next Steps/Action Items:

- Board will provide feedback on brochure and poster (Hands-on-History & Outreach) within a week. Prints will be completed prior August 11th, Howard County Fair date.
- Ms. Burgess to inquire about Facebook options.
- Mr. Zinner to update us on the July 25th Rosa Bonheur meeting.
- Ms. Burgess to follow-up with grant recipient inquiries.
- Ms. Larney to inquire with her office about being the grant recipient.
- Mr. Zinner and Mr. Larney to volunteer August 11th at Fair.

Upcoming meetings

- Tuesday, September 13, 2016 at 10am in George Howard building
- Tuesday, November 8, 2016 at 10am in George Howard building



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September 2016 Minutes

Tuesday, September 13, 2016; 10:00 -11:30 a.m.

The bi-monthly meeting of the Cemetery Preservation Advisory Board was held on Tuesday, September 13, 2016 in the Ilchester room at 3430 Court House Drive, Ellicott City, Maryland.

Members Present: Mike Bennett, Fred Dorsey, Liz Larney, Chip Plitt

Absent: Lee Preston, Dottie Moore, Matthew Smithson

Staff Present: Beth Burgess, Ken Short, Yvette Zhou

Public: Edward Glawe, David Zinner

General Topics

Board Updates:

- Ms. Burgess passed out new materials for the CPAB Member packet. Members will bring their package back during the next meeting to have the new materials bounded in the booklet.
- In the upcoming November meeting, there will be nominations for CPAB Chair position that will be a 1 year duration from November 2016-November 2017. Ms. Burgess asked the Board members to think about his/her availability since the Chair will be more involved in setting the agenda, attending a few extra meetings like County Council testimony, and signing letters on behalf of the Board. Ms. Burgess asked for those who are interested to send her an email before November's meeting.

Grant Update:

- Previously Ms. Burgess asked the Howard County Genealogical Society (HCGS) to be the recipient to the grant. Mr. Davis Gardner who is new in his role as the President of HCGS expressed concerns with workload and role in moving forward with the grant. Ms. Burgess also spoke with Ms. Eileen McGuckian who is the President of the Coalition to Protect MD Burial Sites. Ms. McGuckian expressed full support of the grant and Howard County's CPAB efforts but expressed the grant should be managed at a local level by Howard County people but is willing to support of grant efforts. Ms. Burgess stated Mr. Lewis Taylor, the current Historic Preservation Commission attorney agreed to help with the grant agreement in the absence of an attorney for CPAB. Ms.

Burgess will send the grant draft information to HCGS for a review of the application to decide if they will remain the recipients of this grant.

- Ms. Larney requested the grant forms to be sent to all the board members for review to finalize before the Genealogical society by October.

2016 Events & Outreach:

Mr. Zinner and Ms. Larney handed out grant information at the Hands on History Day at the Howard County Fair last month. Although the topic of cemetery preservation was hard to draw attendees' interests particularly with children, it is still worth attending future events. Mr. Plitt offered support to see Hands on History to return to the Fair.

- Ms. Zinner was not present at today's meeting to share about Outreach.
- Ms. Burgess stated there were still plans to meet with local churches and communities to have a spring clean-up for cemeteries in the spring of 2017.

Cemetery Survey and plan for the future

- Mr. Short said there was a potential cemetery at 9275 Vollmerhausen Road in the rear of the house outside a fenced area. A few footstones with initials were found but the name on the stone is unknown although it seems to be "Washington" as the name. The area is owned by Howard County Department of Recreation and Parks. Mr. Short plans to revisit the site again with Mr. Dorsey to gather more details.
- Ms. Burgess has been working to arrange a meeting with Mr. Glawe and Mr. Jeff Bronow, Research Division Chief, DPZ, to update the Howard County Historic Cemetery Map to become an interactive map.

Cemetery Updates:

Redd & Sipes Property, Elkridge:

There were gravestone discovered by Elm Street Development in 2015. The development is located at 5920 Florey Road and the periwinkle area covers more than a half-acre. Headstones were found and ground penetrating radar found anomalies in the ground. The original plan was to keep burials within an open space area. However, the developer proposed to disinter the remains and reinter the remains at another cemetery. The developer met with Mr. Lazdins, Director of DPZ, September 7th to discuss four alternative compliance issues. Mr. Lazdins stated in the meeting that he needed more time to review the issues. Ms. Burgess made a request to the Office of Law to have a staff attorney present on future CPAB meetings to further discuss cemetery law.

Mr. Dorsey, as President of Howard County Preservation, sent a letter to Mr. Lazdins stating the groups opposition to the developer's proposal to remove the remains. The CPAB also recommends preserving the burials on open space. Last week, the developer emailed Mr. Dorsey to ask the difference between a cemetery vs. burial ground. Mr. Dorsey responded and stated there was no difference. Mr. Dorsey referenced to the Howard County Cemetery Guidelines Sub title 13 which states that a cemetery should not be moved "to achieve a development's maximum density". The Board will wait to hear Mr. Lazdins' decision.

Mr. Short found the possible names on the headstone which were worn down. The land was first purchased in 1845 by Charles Reimensnider. He remarried after his first wife past away. Charles Reimensnider's grave cannot be found but presumably he is buried with his wife. His son, George, retained the rights to the cemetery. It is possible this is a family cemetery with four or five people buried there from the Reimensnider lineage.

Mr. Dorsey referenced past cases such as the Rhine cemetery's request for relocation because the current property owner was troubled by the inappropriate location of the burial. However, the Elm Street development's proposal to remove burials is for maximized development. Mr. Dorsey will write to the Maryland's State's Attorney to request their criteria for making a decision for allowing disinterment.

Mr. Bennett asked the Board to establish the criteria for the CPAB to determine what qualifies a burial to remain and what can be removed for future cases. Mr. Glawe offered to provide the Board with a detailed summary of the State & County laws for cemetery/burials by the November meeting to be used for drafting the criteria. Ms. Larney offered to review other county and state law.

Mr. Bennett shared how past Howard County State's Attorneys had viewed cemetery/burial grounds. If the burial limits could not be defined, then preserve it; but when the burial boundaries are defined, they could be relocated. Mr. Dorsey said if the decision is made to remove the burials, a Code revision should be made so that disinterment cannot occur until construction starts. For example, the Walnut Creek development went through several developers and new a developer may change the design of the plan and/or change their mind on preserving the burial instead of removing it so moving graves immediately, could be premature.

Ms. Burgess finished the discuss on the Redd & Sipes property by stating the Reimensnider burial is documented and found in Deeds and Wills and is now a known cemetery instead of an unidentifiable grave. Prior to remains being relocated, the developer is required to post one legal ad in a local paper for fifteen days notifying family members. Ms. Burgess will discuss these requirements with Land Development and the Director of DPZ so that this process is followed.

Additional Items:

None

Meeting Adjourned at 11:25am.

Next Steps/Action Items:

- Board will bring back members packet to have new documents be rebounded.
- Ms. Burgess to send out grant drafts for review to Board and then HCGS.
- Ms. Burgess to set aside most of November's agenda in drafting criteria for review process.
- Mr. Glawe offered to provide the Board with a detailed summary of the State & County laws for cemetery/burials by the November meeting to be used for drafting the criteria.
- Ms. Larney offered to review other county and state law.
- Mr. Zinner to update on Outreach

Upcoming meetings

- Tuesday, November 8, 2016 at 10am in the George Howard Building.
- Tuesday, January 10, 2017 at 10am in the George Howard Building.