



HOWARD COUNTY CEMETERY PRESERVATION ADVISORY BOARD

3430 Court House Drive ■ Ellicott City, Maryland 21043

Administered by the Department of Planning and Zoning

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March 2019 Minutes

Tuesday, March 12, 2019; 10:00 -11:30 a.m.

The bi-monthly meeting of the Cemetery Preservation Advisory Board was held in the Ilchester room on the 2nd floor at 3430 Court House Drive, Ellicott City, MD 21043. All cases are public meetings unless otherwise indicated. All inquiries should be made to: 410-313-2350.

Members Present: Chip Plitt; Mike Bennett; Edward Glawe

Staff Present: Beth Burgess; Kaitlyn Clifford

Public: Melinda Chaney Farnsworth, Savage Cemetery Company

General Topics

CPAB Business

Cemetery Updates

Cemetery Inventory: Inventory updates have stalled due to inclement weather that has prevented site visits. Staff and volunteers will resume site visits this Spring. Kathy Schooley will be participating in the inventory updates.

New Historic Cemetery: Mr. Dorsey completed a site visit on Vollmerhausen Road, it is a brand-new site. Mr. Dorsey has provided latitude and longitude information. The site is plotting south of I-95 near Guilford Road in the right of way. The area is wooded and by power lines. Ms. Burgess will follow up with Mr. Dorsey for further documentation. Ms. Farnsworth asked for the location and the photos for further research.

Rosa Bonheur Memorial Park: Recent development this fall 2018 caused the unearthing of pets in the back parcel adjacent to Dorsey Run and the Corridor Square development. There has been development at Corridor Square behind Rosa Bonheur Memorial park and bodies of animals were found outside of its boundaries. A police report was filed, and the developers are working with the Friends of Rosa Bonheur to proceed cautiously and work together to resolve any issues.

Other Cemetery Review

Adopt a Cemetery Program is Mr. Dorsey's initiative, as he was absent Ms. Burgess talked briefly over Mr. Dorsey's goal which is to figure out how to create a program to determine how a HOA or some such entity could take over ownership or care of an existing cemetery. While this would not be the responsibility of this Board or the County because it would be an agreement from private ownerships, it would be a program we would want to promote and have the County Executive support.

Coalition to Protect Maryland Burial Sites Annual Conference

A reminder and invitation that the Annual Conference is approaching: Saturday May 4th: 9:00 am- 4:00 pm at Old Greenbelt Theatre, 129 Centerway, Greenbelt, MD. Registration is open at <http://cpmb.org/event/cpmb-annual-meeting-2019/>.

Council Bill CR-35

Ms. Burgess explained that this vote is to add and update the Cemetery Inventory list to include the Reimensnider and Pickett Family cemeteries and allow the Chair to give testimony to County Council to support the addition to the inventory.

This addition could help with tax credit support to those who maintain the cemeteries if there had been historic outbuildings on either of the properties but there are none.

Mr. Bennett stated that he is not convinced there had been bodies disinterred and there is a possibility that any remains were disinterred at a previous time. From Mr. Bennett's professional experience, a few metal objects and a skull or femur from some of the adult males are typically discovered and to his knowledge, nothing but enriched soil was found on this site. Although this disinterment process was handled in a professional manner with great detail and expertise, it is very unusual that no solid materials were found. The Board discussed the topic in more detail.

Mr. Bennet was willing to vote on the inventory update and Ms. Larney's testimony on behalf of the Board but he wanted to share his professional observations.

Motion: Mr. Plitt moved in favor of adding the additional cemeteries to the inventory and allow for Ms. Larney's Testimony for CR-35-2019. Mr. Bennett seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

CPAB grant update

No grant funding allocated at this time. Ms. Burgess is still seeking options for FY20.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:30 am.

Next meeting, Tuesday, May 14, 2019 at 10am in George Howard building.