



# 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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## May 2020 Minutes

Tuesday, May 12, 2020; 10:00 -11:30 a.m.

Due to the State of Emergency and to adhere to social distancing measures, the bi-monthly meeting of the Cemetery Preservation Advisory Board was not held in the Ilchester room on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor at 3430 Court House Drive, Ellicott City, MD 21043 but was conducted as a virtual web meeting/conference call. All cases are public meetings unless otherwise indicated. All inquiries should be made to: 410-313-2350.

**Members Present:** Liz Larney, Chair; Fred Dorsey; Roberta Kelly

**Staff Present:** Beth Burgess; Kaitlyn Clifford

**Public:** Wayne Davis; Joel Hurewitz

### **CPAB Business**

- Ms. Larney asked if the members present had read the January 2020 minutes, and if there were any corrections or a motion to approve them. Mr. Dorsey and Ms. Kelly said there were no corrections. Mr. Dorsey moved to approve the January 2020 minutes. Ms. Kelly seconded. The motion was unanimously approved.

### **General Topics**

Ms. Larney said there were no cemetery plans to review at the meeting and asked the members if they had any updates to share with the board at this time.

Mr. Dorsey said he had two items to share, the first being an email sent to Ms. Burgess concerning the restoration of the Cooke Cemetery at Oakland Mills Village asking if the government had any funds to assist with the restoration. Mr. Dorsey said he thinks the CPAB should reply to the restoration inquiry with a letter including that there is no funding for cemetery restoration from the County at this time but to include the Do's and Don't cemetery pamphlet. Ms. Larney said she agreed and asked Ms. Burgess if she had any information on the restoration project. Ms. Burgess said she referred the group to the Coalition to Protect Maryland Burial Sites via email but could include the Trader Foundation application in the letter and the Foundation's hyperlink per Ms. Larney's request. Ms. Larney said the Trader Foundation has not received any grant applications at this time.

For the second item, Mr. Dorsey asked if the Board should give their decision to the developer and owner of 5020 Ten Oaks Road. Ms. Burgess explained that as the Board voted on approving the January minutes at this meeting, the owner and developer will receive a copy of the minutes. Ms. Burgess said there would be an administrative letter that the meeting took place and a summary letter referring to the attached minutes. Mr. Dorsey asked if any information would be going to Planning Board. Ms. Burgess explained that she was not sure if Planning Board will be getting sent a copy of the minutes as she is not aware if the development reviews Planning Board input but a signed copy of the minutes will be put in the plan's file. The Board discussed required signatures.

Ms. Kelly explained that State Highway Administration (SHA) is putting together a website database that is trying to capture and collect Maryland cemetery locations. The Board would be able to go to the database and contribute cemetery information. Ms. Kelly attended the regional workshop held in December at the Arbutus library. There were a couple representatives from Howard County. Ms. Kelly learned there are cadaver dogs used to search for cemeteries and the dogs could be available to local jurisdictions to locate cemeteries.

Ms. Burgess shared that she is working with Wayne Davis regarding the Savage Guilford Historic Park. Ms. Burgess said the County is currently working with Mr. Davis to determine if the Department of Recreation and Parks (DRP) will take over the care of cemetery #42-6, the slave burial site in Guilford. Ms. Burgess reported there is no current funding for any future grants as the County budget will be very tight next year after the pandemic.

Mr. Davis said he is continuing research on the site and waiting to hear back from DRP on their possible interest on the cemetery. Mr. Davis said he would be willing to give a more formal update on the site during the July Board meeting but was willing to answer any questions the Board may have.

Ms. Burgess said she would share the link Mr. Davis created on the cemetery with the Board. Mr. Davis expressed his appreciation and said that he is informally calling the cemetery Guilford Murray cemetery. Mr. Davis has information from SHA that the cemetery is likely an African American cemetery along with a family cemetery made up of Carroll family related to the Fulton family that owned the area by Guilford Mill. Mr. Davis shared there is likely 50-70 slaves buried there but he has had trouble making the connection other than with grave markers. Mr. Davis explained that some cemeteries get expanded on after the family ownership relocates. All of the field stones are granite and he believes that the portion of the cemetery that became active after 1870 occurred after the quarry opened as many of the field stones have drill marks in them. Mr. Davis said he would write up his research and could talk to the Board about the history of the cemetery more at the July meeting. Ms. Burgess said she would put any of Mr. Davis's written documentation in the cemetery file.

Ms. Burgess said she would like for the cemeteries that are on the interactive GIS map to be linked with the cemetery histories when the County has more resources to devote to the project. Ms. Burgess reported that the cemetery inventories currently had photos of 2/3rds of the sites and staff is still actively working on inventorying the sites that have not been located. Mr. Davis said there was potential with the Maryland Ancestral Society to help locate more of the cemeteries. Mr. Davis explained if there is training on locating cemeteries which does not require funding, that group could be a possibility of extra help. Mr. Davis said he had been in touch with Alex from SHA who works on the SHA website trying to get links to the arcgis database. Alex has not been able to make this request a priority at this time but talked with Mr. Davis last week and there are a lot of positive things moving on with the project.

Ms. Larney reported that the Coalition to Protect Maryland Burial Sites discussed moving their annual conference to the fall but decided to cancel and host the same itinerary for May 2021 in Harford County.

Ms. Larney received a newsletter from Cumberland Historic cemetery organization, a two-page newsletter and plans to scan it and send it to Ms. Burgess. Ms. Larney reaffirmed that there is no County funding for any grants for next year due to the current pandemic.

Ms. Larney asked if there was any other discussion for the Board. Joel Hurewitz said he is helping Mr. Davis from afar and has done some genealogy research and is confused what it means to have a cemetery on the inventory being listed as a slave cemetery. Mr. Larney told Mr. Hurewitz that the categorization is not an informational reference. Ms. Burgess explained the categorization came to Council as such, but names can be updated if there is documentation to support the revision. The correction to the list would require Council approval through a

resolution. Mr. Hurewitz said in the 1830s and 1840s slaves were put in plantation graves. Any slaves that were put in family cemeteries showed a sign of honor. Mr. Hurewitz explained that in most instances family graves were put inside the cemetery and the slave graves were outside of the cemetery. Mr. Hurewitz shared that Mr. Davis had uncovered stone from an infant grave that was a nicely shaped stone indicating that there was money involved in the burial. Mr. Hurewitz suggested the beneficiary could have been David Carroll as he was becoming the owner of the Clipper Mill in Baltimore at the time. Mr. Hurewitz asked if there were other combined cemeteries in Howard where there were families and slaves. Mr. Hurewitz noted there is a slave only cemetery in Oakland Mills. Mr. Hurewitz asked how the cemetery designation came to be. Ms. Burgess explained that the designation came through previous research or assumptions and that as the project moves forward, she is happy to correct any incorrect records and said the Board would need to approve the list before it goes to Council to be recognized on the inventory. Ms. Larney said that the Board needs to be careful about conjecture. Ms. Larney said the stone Mr. Hurewitz referenced on the burial for the infant could have come from the quarry and the family might not have been wealthy.

Mr. Hurewitz asked the Board if they had any resources about predominate mixing of slaves and non-slaves and where slaves would be buried near Mill workers. Ms. Larney said cemeteries were sectioned off by fencing and then removed. Mr. Dorsey said the conversation should be carried over to the July meeting. Ms. Larney agreed and referred the public attendees to the Coalition to the Protection of Maryland Burial Sites as there is a staff member's primary research is African American burial sites. Mr. Davis said he had been working with Tina Simmons from Anne Arundel County, Dennis Green and Robert Mosko. Ms. Larney said that Ms. Simmons would be able to get Mr. Davis in contact with the right people.

Mr. Dorsey moved to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Kelly seconded. The motion was unanimously approved. The meeting was adjourned at 10:37 am.

The next meeting is scheduled for July 14, 2020.