



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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September 2025 Minutes

Tuesday, September 9, 2025; 10:00 -11:00 am

The bi-monthly meeting of the Cemetery Preservation Advisory Board was held as a hybrid meeting both virtually as a web meeting/conference call and in person. All cases are public meetings unless otherwise indicated. All inquiries should be made to: 410-313-2350.

Members Present: In person: Katie Myers, Chair; Virtual: Kelly Palich, Kyla Cools

Members Absent: Kelli Shimabukuro; Roberta Kelly, Vice-Chair

Staff Present: Beth Burgess; Lisa Kenney

Public: n/a

July Minutes: Ms. Myers asked the Board to approve the July 2025 minutes. Ms. Palich moved to approve the minutes, and Ms. Cools seconded. All approved.

General Topics

CPAB Administration/ Board Updates

Harriet Tubman Event Outreach

Ms. Burgess stated Ms. Kelly requested consideration for the CPAB to attend the annual Harriet Tubman Outreach, which is Saturday, September 20th but we do not have coverage for that event. Ms. Palich has a program until noon but will try and attend after her event to represent and then remove the table items. Ms. Burgess will follow up with Ms. Kelly to see if she could set up the table.

The Word Search was shared for feedback and approval for the Outreach. It was approved with a few edits like adding in that the list of sites should be noted as Howard County African American Cemeteries. Ms. Burgess will get wording from Ms. Kelly.

FY25 Grant Status Update

Ms. Burgess reported that the cemetery grant application packets were mailed around Labor Day and the deadline for the grants is October 2nd. DPZ staff spent a lot of time correcting ownership in the inventory and spoke to several people who expressed interest in applying.

Cemetery Workshop

Robert Mosko is hosting a 2-weekend, 4-day workshop at Twinbrook Library on September 20 and 21 for classroom instruction and Rockville Cemetery for field instruction on September 27 and 28. The rain date is October 4 and 5 for the field instruction. Contact Ms. Myers for any registration.

State Updates:

HB535 State Synopsis: Establishing the Abandoned and Neglected Cemeteries Fund to provide for the care, preservation, maintenance, and restoration of abandoned and neglected cemeteries in the State; authorizing the Governor to include in the annual budget bill an appropriation of \$250,000 to the fund; and requiring an annual report by September 30 to the General Assembly on the donations to the Fund and promotional efforts undertaken by money from the Fund.

Ms. Burgess reported out there will be State definitions for “abandoned cemetery” and “Neglected cemetery” that will be in COMAR as of October 1. The definitions are from HB535.

“Abandoned cemetery” is defined as a cemetery for which (1) the organization established to operate the cemetery has been terminated, dissolved by the State, or otherwise ceased to exist and the title has not been conveyed; (2) there is no property owner listed in the records of the State Department of Assessments and Taxation; (3) the property has been condemned; or (4) no person who is legally responsible for the property can be found and legal ownership of the property cannot be determined.

“Neglected cemetery” means a cemetery for which (1) two or more citations have been issued by a county or municipality against the property for failure to maintain the property; (2) the property has fallen into disrepair due to neglect and insufficient maintenance; (3) the property has been the object of vandalism, loitering, or other criminal conduct; or (4) there has been physical destruction or deterioration of the property.

Indigenous Community:

Ms. Palich reported she attended the Summit of Maryland Indigenous People and Archaeologists. She said the plan is to work with the indigenous communities of Maryland to get a State law established for the protection of indigenous burials and burial grounds in the State of Maryland as there are no federally recognized tribes in Maryland. Ms. Palich mentioned the NAGPRA - Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act.

Cemetery Updates

Oella Cemetery: Ms. Myers said there is an Oella Cemetery clean-up day this Saturday, September 13th from 9am- noon.

#25-4 Name Correction: Ms. Burgess said she is still actively working on the name change to the #25-4 site.

Archeology Dig: Ms. Palich said there is a public dig this Saturday, the 13th from 10am to 3pm. Contact her if there is interest.

Next Meeting:

The next meeting will be on Tuesday, November 18th at 10 am both online and at the George Howard Building, since the County government is closed on November 11th for Veterans Day.

Closing:

Ms. Palich moved to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Myers seconded. The motion was unanimously approved at 10:18 am.