



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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January 2021 Minutes

Tuesday, January 12, 2021; 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 2nd 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; Chip Plitt; Michael Bennett

Staff Present: Beth Burgess; Kaitlyn Harvey

Public: None present

CPAB Business

- Ms. Larney asked if the members present had read the November 2020 minutes, and if there were any corrections or a motion to approve them. Mr. Dorsey moved to approve the November 2020 minutes. Mr. Bennett seconded. The motion was unanimously approved.

CPAB Updates

Quaker Hill/Ellicott Brothers/Anderson Cemeteries

The owners of the Quaker Friend's Burial ground contacted the Board about accessibility to the Quaker Hill/Ellicott Brothers/Anderson Cemeteries. They want to confirm their ownership, to give permission for a Howard County citizen to do clean up on their property, and to work with the County in establishing cemetery boundaries. Ms. Burgess has also been contacted by a Trustee of the Baltimore Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends, Inc., and an adjacent neighbor to the cemetery. The Howard County citizen and cemetery Trustees are being told by the owner of 3771 Old Columbia Pike that they do not have the right to access the cemetery through the private driveway. The owners of the Quaker Hill Cemetery 25-2 believe they have access through the driveway based on deeds.

The Board wants to gather additional information on the cemetery prior to weighing in. Ms. Burgess said the private citizen trying to access the cemetery for maintenance was escorted off the premises by the police because the owner of 3771 Old Columbia Pike contacted the police alleging trespassing.

Additionally, another cemetery not currently on the Howard County Inventory has been identified on the parcel. It is located over the hill adjacent to the Friend's Burial. There is a stone wall on three sides of the burial, and headstones were found that are much more elaborate than the Quaker stones. It is noted on old maps as the Anderson Cemetery, but a name for the burial site is being researched and will be determined prior to going to Council for adoption on the Cemetery Inventory. Staff plans to visit the property to document the site for the inventory. Volunteers on site to repair a collapsed wall found a bone, believed to be part of a shoulder, and

buried the bone in the burial area. Ms. Larney suggested Ms. Burgess contact Eddie Glawe for any information or knowledge he may have as she believes he may have done survey work in this area.

Ms. Larney reminded the Board that there was a question about ownership of the John Day Burial parcel years ago and that she remembers speaking to family members of an adjacent property who recall family lore that the parcel is an ancient Native American burial ground. Ms. Burgess explained that the diamond shape parcel (234) east of and adjacent to 3771 Old Columbia Pike has potential for development. Based on 19th century maps, there is concern more burials are on that parcel. Ms. Burgess said there will be an effort to research the parcel to verify if there are burials on the property.

The property owner showed Ms. Burgess a 2004 plat or survey indicating the driveway to 3771 Old Columbia Pike was intended as a private driveway for the owner of the Quaker Meeting house (Parcel 339 and Parcel 234) and not to any of the cemeteries. The Quaker Meeting house owner stated to Ms. Burgess that she is concerned to have public access on her driveway due to vandals and random people wandering on the property.

Mr. Bennett asked how long the property owner has lived at the address. Land Records confirm the property owner has owned the property since 2005. Mr. Bennett asked what has changed between taking ownership of the property and now. Ms. Burgess said a gate was installed in the eyebrow driveway in 2012. Ms. Burgess recalled the Historic Preservation Commission 2012 meeting where the gate was approved. There were no objections at the meeting from the Quaker descendants because the gate was presented to be for their benefit to allow access to their site. It was purported at that meeting that the gate was being added to prevent tenants at 3775 Old Columbia Pike from loitering and parking on the property in front of the Ellicott Brothers burial site.

River Hill

Mr. Plitt submitted 3 photos of the River Hill Garden Center site. There are currently five headstones in place with a new fence around the cemetery. The work on the project is complete and the equipment removed from the area. The monuments were repaired and the fence and stones were installed approximately where they had been found. It is not believed that remains are on the site due to past disturbance of the property. The Board was pleased with the restoration project.

Dorsey of Arcadia

Ms. Burgess explained that last week a neighbor reached out to David Yungmann's office to complain about the added lighting discussed at the November 2020 CPAB meeting. Ms. Burgess wanted to bring the concern to the Board's attention.

Mr. Dorsey said he met with the Dr. Cargiulo who hung the lights, which are strung along one side of the property approximately 10 feet above the cemetery. The lights are small colored holiday lights. Mr. Dorsey suggested Dr. Cargiulo canvas his neighborhood to make sure they were okay with the lights being hung. Karen Knight from David Yungmann's office sent Mr. Dorsey an email about the complaint from the neighbor asking the County to take action to resolve the lighting.

Mr. Dorsey told Ms. Knight he would bring the concern to the Board, and explained the situation is an issue between the neighbors. Ms. Burgess also responded to Ms. Knight. Ms. Burgess said she educated the Council staff on how to look up cemetery locations on the County interactive database and that she was not able to assist on the lighting complaint as it is a neighbor-to-neighbor issue. Ms. Larney requested and received confirmation that the lighting is not a spotlight and does not cause light pollution.

The Board discussed the issue of cemeteries without known ownership, and the difficulties that arise in maintaining them. Ms. Burgess asked Ms. Larney to take the concern to the Coalition to Protect Maryland Burial Sites as it is a statewide issue. Ms. Larney said the issue was perennial and she would bring it up at the next

meeting (scheduled for Saturday, January 30, at 1:15). Ms. Burgess asked the Board if they would support legislation at any level to create a process for abandoned cemeteries or if the Board would object to having their names behind the legislation. Mr. Dorsey asked if the County could create a program after legislation occurs such as an adopt-a-cemetery. Mr. Plitt notes ownership could be a complicated issue depending on how the legislation was written. The issue will be revisited.

Ten Oaks Cemetery

Mr. Dorsey requested to know if there was any disinterment activity on the site pursuant to prior meetings with the Board. Ms. Burgess said she is not aware of any new activity, but that the request would have to come back to the Board and to the State's Attorney to follow the appropriate formal process. Ms. Burgess said she would follow up with the owners.

Cemetery, Grant and Maintenance Outreach

A suggestion has been made that the Board send letters to owners of poor condition cemeteries citing the importance of cemetery care and offering guidance on appropriate care has been made. Ms. Burgess recommended the Board wait to do outreach when there is information for the third cemetery grant. Ms. Burgess anticipates a FY22 funding and will work with the DPZ Director. Letters would be sent to the local owners to advise them of the County's Cemetery grant, and to provide information on Trader Foundation grants this coming Spring. The mailing can include both grant and maintenance information, so even if the owners choose not to apply for the grants, they will have the maintenance information. Ms. Larney suggested referencing the Maintenance Guidelines from the Coalition's website.

Board Membership

Ms. Larney suggested there should be a vote at the next meeting on Chair position, and asked the Board members to consider if they are interested to serve in that role. She is willing to continue, but feels it should be a Board decision and not assumed due to inaction. Ms. Larney provided an update on the question of Ms. Farnsworth's application to join the Board. Ms. Larney sent a letter to Ms. Pruim asking for information as to why Ms. Farnsworth has not received a response from the Administration after nearly 18 months. Ms. Larney will inform the Board when a response is received. After the Board knows how appointment processes are proceeding, a discussion about potential Board members can move forward.

Ms. Larney asked if there are any cemeteries in the plan submittal process. Ms. Burgess said she had not heard anything from the Division of Land Development on cemeteries in review.

Ms. Larney asked that the March agenda include the Ellicott Brothers and Quaker Hill cemetery, the potential new cemetery on the hill, Dorsey of Arcadia updates, a mailer update, and continued conversation on membership.

Mr. Plitt moved to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Dorsey seconded. The motion was unanimously approved. The meeting was adjourned at 10:58 am.

The next meeting is scheduled for March 9, 2021