



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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July 2021 Minutes

Tuesday, July 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; Chip Plitt; Michael Bennett

Staff Present: Beth Burgess

Public: Tahnee Fields, Lakesha Manning

CPAB Updates

- Minutes: Ms. Larney asked if the members present had read the May 2021 minutes, and if there were any corrections or a motion to approve them. Mr. Bennett moved to approve the May 2021 minutes. Mr. Plitt seconded. The motion was unanimously approved.
- Ellicott City 250 anniversary: The Board discussed EC250 and decided they would like to support or do outreach at currently scheduled events vs creating new events. They requested to review the EC250 calendar of events and discuss at September meeting which events could use their support. The Board believes there could be opportunities for educational tables and cemetery brochures for various events. Mr. Dorsey suggested and volunteered to man an outreach table at the Tourism building if it can be arranged.
- Hands on History outreach: Thursday, August 12th from 10am-3pm. Ms. Kelly has volunteered. Board discussed tasteful outreach materials. The Board approved all existing materials used at past event. The Board will follow up with Ms. Burgess if giveaway items are found; the Board discussed the caution of not trying to education children on death. The Board agreed the point of this outreach is about respect and education for these historic sites and not to discuss death, religion or anything that could be interpreted as scary or influential to youth.
It was suggested that the National Funeral Directors Museum in Houston Texas (<https://www.nmfh.org/>) may sell materials that are appropriate as giveaways. The Board was willing to contribute to a giveaway item since DPZ does not have funding for CPAB.
- Website: It is proposed to have a cemetery webpage to further direct the public. Mr. Dorsey suggests using photos of maintenance being done on cemeteries such as: Photos with eagle scouts, Whipps cemetery examples, some of the grant projects, ongoing maintenance images. The Board suggests links to other preservation resources as well as core information like the scope of the

Board and what can and cannot be done as maintenance. A FAQ will be provided since the County receives many inquiries that the County does not have as records or has no purview over. Ms. Fields requested that having a user-friendly site that has regular updates of what CPAB is doing would be helpful. She suggested more points of contacts from other cemeteries owners would be helpful to network. Ms. Larney requested the subject of ownership information be tabled for the September meeting.

- Virtual Meetings: The County would like the Boards to offer a hybrid of both in person and virtual meetings but we are a unique Board that often has few guests. The Board agreed that meeting in person is most ideal especially when there is an attendee that is seeking the advice of the Board. Being in person gives a more personal touch to the subject of burials. The Board motioned to meet in person for the September meeting and if CPAB is able to offer a hybrid meeting so that guest or Board members limited on time are able to attend, then they are in favor of that option. Mr. Plitt motioned. Mr. Dorsey seconded. The motion was unanimously approved.

Cemetery Updates

- Blackstone (#37-3): Ms. Tahnee was introduced in addition to her cousin, Ms. Lakesha Manning. Ms. Fields discussed the Blackstone family cemetery, her descendants, the winter clean-up effort and goals moving forward. Ms. Tahnee shared the family has worked with Merritt Properties to have ground penetrating radar done to cemetery area. The 2014 inventory had presumed 20+ burials but the GPR this year noted 58 burials. The burials were marked with wood stakes but the family would like a more permanent solution without having to get a headstone for all 58 remains. Mr. Bennett stated cemeteries commonly use a 4-inch stainless steel disc that is intended to be hammered flush to the ground via a 10-inch carriage bolt. He said that the disc could be numbered and they can be picked up by a metal detector if they get covered up with leaf litter. The number on the disc could identify with each remain. The Holland Supply is one of the resources that provide these discs and they can pre-stamp the discs. <https://hollandsupplyinc.com/> Ms. Fields asked for clarification of the Boards role related to the cemeteries, the maintenance and resources. Pinning Supply was mentioned but a website source was not found.

Mr. Dorsey suggested to Ms. Fields to visit Whipps cemetery (#24-4) in Ellicott City as that is a premiere example of good maintenance. Mr. Dorsey suggested Ms. Fields work with Eagle Scouts to assist the Blackstone cemetery with their projects and used Anderson cemetery (#38-9) in Elkridge to be another good example of care and preservation.

The Board discussed the accessibility and any limitations to the site. Discussed the site with the existing headstones and the documentation of each of the headstones that exist so that the inscriptions can be entered from Genealogical Society records.

Discussed how the cpmb.org have information about cemetery mapping.

- Belmont: Mr. Dorsey update the Board on a bad storm in Elkridge that cause a 200-yr-old tree to drop some limbs on the fence but did not hit the headstones. The damaged fence will be replaced.
- Fuller/ Kane/ Smith cemetery: Mr. Dorsey updated the Board on the lack of maintenance at the Rt 99 cemetery site. The area has not been maintained and there have been complaints but the other week, the immediate burial site was mowed back down to a healthy level but the taller unmaintained grass still surrounded it. Mr. Dorsey said they still need to get the attention of the owner to maintain the site. A vinyl fence has been installed by the neighbor.

Action Items:

Send Ms. Fields the contact and resources.

Table the EC250 events and promotion of citizen ownership on the website to September.

FY22 Grant Cycle:

Plans are to contact the Genealogical Society and send application letters within the month for fall scopes of work.

Closing:

Mr. Plitt moved to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Bennett seconded. The motion was unanimously approved.

11:16am.

Reminders:

The next meeting will be Sept 14, 2021