



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 2018 Minutes

Tuesday, May 8, 2018; 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: Liz Larney, Chair; Chip Plitt; Fred Dorsey; Mike Bennett; Edward Glawe
David Zinner, Liaison to the Maryland Advisory Council on Cemetery Oversight

Staff Present: Beth Burgess, Ken Short, Yvette Zhou

Public: Jerry Rushing, President of Savage Cemetery Company; Rev. Jane Wood and James Marcelus of Locust United Methodist Church; Wayne Davis; Jim DeArmey

General Topics

CPAB Business

- Ms. Larney moved to approve the March 2018 minutes. Mr. Dorsey seconded. The motion was unanimously approved.

Cemetery Updates

SDP-18-047: Locust United Methodist Church

- Pictures and plans of the church addition were shared, including the proximity to the graves and distance between the parking lot and burials. While some of the graves have headstones standing upright, some have fallen flat or flush to the ground. The proposed addition will cover most of the existing parking lot but will not impact the grave sites. Rev. Wood stated ground penetrating radar (GPR) was done throughout the site. Three anomalies were found, so that area will be preserved as a memorial garden. The Board discussed that the Applicant is requesting a 10 foot setback from any graves or headstones, not the 30 foot buffer for cemeteries. Mr. Zinner asked what areas had GPR performed. Rev. Wood said the entire area including the parking lot, the proposed building area, and the proposed sediment pond.
- Rev. Wood said DPZ disapproved the current plan and the Applicant has 45 days to provide revisions to DPZ. A meeting is scheduled with her Engineer to discuss why DPZ disapproved the plan and to find out what revisions are requested.
- Rev. Woods said the cemetery dates back to 1856, but was deeded to Locust UMC by Mr. James Parker on February 28, 2012. It was originally a family cemetery for the Parker Randall family. Mr. Zinner asked if there are active burials. Rev. Woods said the cemetery is at capacity, with the last burial in 1984, so the church merely maintains the grounds.

- Mr. Zinner and Ms. Larney inquired about plans for fencing or signage. Rev. Wood said the side of the cemetery facing Freetown Road is fenced off but there are no plans for fencing, including the memorial garden. Mr. Zinner asked why the church is building an addition. Rev. Woods said plans had been discussed for about 30 years to provide space for Sunday school. The congregation decided it was not feasible to tear down the existing building, so they are proposing an addition. Ms. Burgess asked if there will be a patio or door exiting from the rear of the addition, which could create foot traffic very close to the cemetery. Rev. Woods said no.
- Ms. Burgess said she will note the Board's comments when she reviews the plans.

Other Cemetery Review

#42-6 Burials located near the storage off Old Guilford Road:

- Images from the inventory done by the Genealogical Society were shared. Ms. Burgess is planning a future site visit, and asked Mr. Davis about his specific concerns.
- Mr. Davis said the surrounding area was historically a commercial port with ties to the mill and quarry. Mr. Davis is interested to plot the legal descriptions in the deeds. He explained a marker showed the graves date to the 1830's. There are two stones identified, one said Eliza Marlo (1838) and the other said Elverta Young. The other foot and headstones are granite but are not readable. He believes the burials are most likely quarry workers, and that there are approximately 70-100 burials in the cemetery. Mr. Davis would like help to learn how to identify the graves. Grid mapping the site may be a challenge due to the topography. Mr. Davis wants to involve the right people to identify the cemetery's origins for preservation. He said the Boys Scouts could potentially clean up the site further.
- Ms. Burgess said Julie Schablitsky, the Chief Archaeologist of Maryland State Highway Administration, contacted Mr. Short about archaeology opportunities. Mr. Davis noted SHA has been helpful and has cleared most of the land of overgrown vines but more clean-up is needed.
- Mr. Dorsey said there is a large stone faced down that may have writing. SHA was involved with the site when Route 32 was widened. Mr. Davis said the property is owned by HRD and he has worked with HRD for a release form to access the site. Mr. Dorsey said the stones were marked and flagged by SHA, and the depressions were marked with yellow flags. GPR will be very hard to do due to the heavy vines covering the ground.
- Ms. Larney asked about the size of the area and if there is a fence for protection. Mr. Davis said the size is about 0.25 acres located on a 4 foot high retaining wall but not fenced. Mr. Dorsey said the only fence is SHA's facing Route 32. Mr. Davis believes there could be more graves on the other side of the existing SHA fence since the site was originally a square plot.
- Mr. Zinner said SHA has a program with prisoners to clean up the roads. Mr. Davis said he was unsure why Ms. Schablitsky did not explore this option.

Preservation and Restoration Initiative for Neglected Cemetery Entities (PRINCE update)

- Mr. Zinner is frustrated by the lack of movement on this project. Mr. Zinner proposed an alternative plan for the County to discuss an agreement for prisoners to clean up area cemeteries. Ms. Burgess said the timing for agreement with the County may take just as long. Mr. Zinner said he and Mr. Mosko have developed a training curriculum for prisoners to learn about cemetery maintenance.

Coalition to Protect Maryland Burial Sites May 5th Conference update

- A copy of the meeting agenda was shared with the Board, and Glenn Wallace's handout on Mapping a Cemetery will be emailed to the Board.
- It was noted that the Coalition sends e-newsletters to anyone who signs up, and that individual membership is \$10 per year. Ms. Burgess said she found Anne Arundel and Prince George's County attendance and presentations to be helpful, and that both counties have an archeologist on staff.

Legislation: House Bill 877

- It was shared that the Bill passed, with more than half of the original language stricken.
- Mr. Zinner continues to work with the Coalition to draft language for 2019 legislation, proposing that the State's Attorney's responsibilities in non-criminal disinterment's be transferred to the Office of Cemetery Oversight.
- As part of the research prior to writing the Bill, the Coalition requested statistics on the number of non-criminal disinterment from the State's Attorney office, but the response was minimal.

Hands on History

- The date of the Howard County Fair is August 9th from 10am-3pm. Passes will be provided to Board members. A projector for slide show is needed.
- Mr. Plitt suggested the display table be away from the window for the optimal slide show. Ms. Burgess said she can cover the windows to block the light. Ms. Larney noted the program was generally under attended in the past, but is important and is a great networking opportunity.
- Mr. Zinner and Mr. DeArmeay said they can attend. Mr. Plitt said he can if he is in town.
- Mr. Plitt suggested changing the presentation time in future years to 3pm-9pm. Mr. Dorsey said the farm board won't allow the change as families tend to attend in evening, and they want the rides to be successful. Mr. Dorsey's request was for Hands on History to be moved to Senior Day. The Board agreed this would be a better option as the current day and time is not ideal for higher outreach effectiveness.

CPAB grant update

- The Savage cemetery completed their grant task and submitted for reimbursement. Mr. Rushing reported the spring cleanup day was held April 7th and over 20 volunteered attended despite the weather. The project was very successful and Mr. Rushing hopes to continue cleanup efforts with the support of future grants. Ms. Burgess noted there is no current funding for an FY19 grant.
- Mr. Dorsey proposed that more consideration be given to sites that are in poorer condition (not only established cemeteries) by doing extra outreach to stimulate them to apply for 2019. Ms. Larney asked for suggestions as to specific outreach options. Mr. Dorsey suggested personal contacts from the Board, including door-knocking site visits, or possibly a specialized letter to promote future grant applications.

Action Items:

- Board to review the CPAB brochure in preparation for Hands on History.

Ms. Larney moved to adjourn. Mr. Plitt seconded. The motion was unanimously approved, and the meeting was adjourned at 11:14 am.

Next meeting, Tuesday, July 10, 2018 at 10am in George Howard building