



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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November 2020 Minutes

Tuesday, November 10, 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 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

Staff Present: Beth Burgess; Kaitlyn Harvey

Public: None present

CPAB Business

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

CPAB Administrative Updates

The Board discussed membership and the current vacancies. Ms. Burgess said that Samantha Holmes in Department of Planning and Zoning received correspondence from member Edward Glawe saying he no longer serves on the Cemetery Preservation Advisory Board because of his position with the Department of Public Works. Ms. Burgess tried to reach out to Mr. Glawe but has not heard back. Ms. Burgess said due to Mr. Glawe's absence and his statement to Ms. Holmes he will be removed from the Board. Ms. Burgess said she will be working with Ms. Larney to update the County Administration on Board membership. Mr. Dorsey suggested that the Board should send a letter to Mr. Glawe indicating his lack of ability to attend meetings caused the Board to remove him as a member. Ms. Larney and Ms. Burgess agreed with Mr. Dorsey's idea.

Mr. Dorsey suggested finding another potential member with a surveying background to fill Mr. Glawe's position. Ms. Burgess said there is a list of roles for the Board such as archaeology, history, funeral directing and others and it's good to have a back up or those particular areas covered. Ms. Burgess noted that all potential members would need to be a resident of Howard County as member Mike Bennett is filling the non-resident position currently. Mr. Bennett has moved to Hanover, Pennsylvania and is willing to stay on the board. Ms. Burgess said Mr. Bennett's information has been updated with the County Administration.

Ms. Larney said that Melinda Farnsworth has shown interest and even applied to be a member on the Board at the same time Ms. Kelly had. Ms. Farnsworth never heard anything back from County Administration which is why Ms. Farnsworth has not been attending meetings recently. Ms. Larney suggested that the Board send in a

letter to County Administration to ask why there has been no action on Ms. Farnsworth application. Mr. Dorsey, Ms. Kelly and Mr. Plitt agree a letter should be sent into County Administration.

Ms. Larney said the Board is open to the possibility of any new Board members and want to keep the Board active and have interested people on the board. Ms. Larney said a goal of the current members should be to come up with a name of an interested person to join the Board before next scheduled meeting.

Ms. Burgess said she will send the Board members a letter and expectations of Board members, Kim Pruiim contact information and Ms. Burgess's contact information for Board members to forward on to interested parties.

Mr. Dorsey suggested inviting Dr. Cargiulo to attend a Board meeting in 2021 or possibly have him consider joining the Board. Mr. Dorsey also suggested approaching Aleta Gravelle for Board Membership.

Ms. Burgess said she put in a request through the DPZ Director to the County Executive for 10,000 dollars for cemetery grants. Amy Gowan said DPZ is committed to finding funds to provide Cemetery Grants every other year and the Board will receive money for Grants in 2021. Ms. Burgess asked if the Board knew of any other opportunities for grants besides the Trader Foundation grant from Coalition to Protect Maryland Burials.

Ms. Burgess then updated the Board on St. Paul cemeteries grant use. St. Paul was unable to use their second grant of 1,500 dollars. Ms. Larney said the funds for the grant were for headstone repair but the gentleman hired to do the headstone repair could not get his equipment to do the work on the site due to stream erosion. The request for the grant funds were changed to use for tree removal instead. The tree removals that could be done without heavy equipment have been done but the trees left that need to be removed also need heavy equipment to remove the trees, which also like the equipment for the headstones were not able to get into the site. Ms. Larney said until there is access from Frederick Road directly to the property the equipment cannot get in.

Ms. Kelly suggested the Board explore options from the United Way of Central Maryland. United Way has Neighborhood Grants for neighborhood centers that have 5,000 dollars or less for projects of between 10,000-15,000 dollars and some projects may fall in line with the Neighborhood Grant project. The deadline for this program is November 24, 2020. Ms. Larney said pocket cemeteries could potentially fit in this program.

Ms. Larney said the Coalition to Protect Maryland Burial Sites had a meeting this weekend. Ms. Burgess asked if the Coalition had any grant funding available. Ms. Larney said the Coalition was looking for applicants for the Trader Foundation grant quarterly which is when the Coalition has their meetings. The Coalition is currently looking for applicants for the upcoming quarter.

Cemetery Updates

Dorsey-Arcadia Cemetery

Mr. Dorsey said he has not heard from the neighbor, but he was able to find an aerial of the property from the 1940's which shows the location of the cemetery which is adjacent to the homestead house. Mr. Dorsey said he is not sure what other progress Dr. Cargiulo has made in the last several months.

Ms. Burgess said that she has received many inquires from neighbors to cemeteries wanting to do cleanup to adjacent cemeteries or wanting to get grant funding, however the neighbors are not the owners of the cemeteries

Ms. Harvey discussed lights that have been placed in the Dorsey at Arcadia cemetery in Valley Meade. Mr. Dorsey said that Dr. Cargiulo had cleared the lights being placed in the cemetery with adjacent neighbors.

Jones-Tucker Cemetery

Ms. Burgess said she received communication from a neighbor about cleanup for the Jones-Tucker cemetery. Ms. Burgess gave the neighbor history of the site and that other neighbors would prefer keeping the cemetery hidden rather than cleaning up the cemetery and exposing it to vandals. Boy scouts cleaned up the cemetery previously and the cemetery was vandalized soon after the cleanup. Ms. Burgess told the neighbor about the Trader Foundation grant. Ms. Burgess reiterated that some kind of State level legislation is needed in order to sell, exchange or absorb the neighborhood cemeteries as there are about a dozen cemeteries with no owners. Ms. Larney offered to teach others how to do land title research.

St. Mary Cemetery

Ms. Burgess said she received an inquiry from neighbors wanting to clean up the cemetery that are also not the owner, but as the County owns the property Ms. Burgess gave the neighbors information on cleaning up burial sites and a current aerial of the property.

Ms. Burgess suggested asking the Coalition for help with legislation for cemeteries with no ownership. Mr. Dorsey said abandoned property legislation should be looked into. Ms. Larney said that most of the cemeteries were remaindered parcels after a property was subdivided which would leave the last owner and their descendants as having legal rights over the remaindered property.

Mr. Dorsey said the Garden Club he was a part of through the Genealogical Society was interested in doing cleanup to St. Mary's cemetery but nothing ever came of it. Mr. Dorsey mentioned that some preservation societies feel that overgrown cemeteries are better protected than if it was cleaned up.

Fuller-Kane Cemetery

Mr. Dorsey asked Ms. Kelly for an update on the Fire Department's cleanup efforts on the cemetery. Ms. Kelly said the Fire Station had tried to clean up the cemetery but every time the Fire Station has prepared for cleanup the work was already done. Ms. Kelly heard a descendant has been upkeeping the cemetery but she has not been out to see the cemetery in a few months.

Calendar for Next Year's meeting

Ms. Burgess read off the proposed dates for the 2021 CPAB meeting schedule to the Board. Mr. Dorsey moved to approve the 2021 Schedule. Mr. Plitt seconded. The motion was unanimously approved.

Mr. Dorsey moved to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Plitt seconded. The motion was unanimously approved. The meeting was adjourned at 10:47 am.

The next meeting is scheduled for January 12, 2021.