

APPROVED

Surfside Beach Historical and Preservation Society
General Membership meeting Minutes:
Date of August 19, 2015

Meeting held at Floral Field Building at 4p.m. There were nineteen (19) people attending.

Mary Beth Mabry, acting City Council liaison, spoke to the group about the City of Surfside Beach's purchase of the property located on Willow Drive S. and 3rd Ave S., upon which The Ark Plantation main house stood.

Ben Burroughs, Historian and Director of Horry County Archives at Coastal Carolina University, spoke about the history of The Ark Plantation and the importance of preservation and study of this site. Cultural growth, understanding, educational opportunities will abound. The community's identity will expand and a new dimension will be added to the public perception of Surfside Beach. He spoke of the historical research and study which led to the community interest in purchasing the property. The next step is to organize to develop a plan for an archaeological dig.

Joyce Suliman, realtor, told of the efforts being made to obtain another parcel currently for sale. This piece of land has many of the grave sites and is the location of the cemetery of The Ark Plantation. There are difficulties regarding the selling price and what the City Council is able or desiring to do regarding a future purchase.

Present were several descendants of the men and women, both black and white, slave and master. The identities of some of those interred at The Ark Plantation cemetery are known; most notable among them, Sabe Rutledge. Many were slaves or the children of the slaves of The Ark Plantation. Several stories were related during the meeting in regards to the people of The Ark, the tradition of Ringing of the Bell Ceremony, and The Look-out.

Ideas and thoughts were shared in an open conversation. There was much discussion regarding finding pictures of The Ark and getting interviews recorded with living descendants of some of the people buried in this cemetery.

As the meeting drew to a close, it was decided to hold a meeting in two weeks for the purpose of forming a Board of Directors who would be charged with formatting a proposal for the possible educational uses and opportunities available through the development and discovery of 18th and 19th century life at The Ark Plantation. The meeting will be held at the Floral Field Clubhouse at 4pm, September 2, 2015.

A list of the names and contact information of those attending the meeting today was gathered. Several people indicated an interest in working on the Board.

Respectfully submitted,
Sherry Singleton, Recording Secretary, Surfside Beach Historical and Preservation Society

