

Surfside Beach Historical Committee

November 4, 2015 *minutes*

Ben Burroughs, called meeting to order at 4p.m. at the Floral Field Clubhouse.

Minutes of the October meeting were read, voted and approved.

Mary Beth Mabry of the City Council advised us to first vote on what we want to do or have and then present it to the City Council. She encouraged us to gather documentation of the cemetery. Often there is more financial support for documented cemeteries needing preservation help.

Notes follow of active discussion for documenting of the cemetery:

- Cad Holmes stated that he is keeper of the Ark Cemetery Interment master-list. Mary Beth asked him to bring the information to have it notarized, copies made, and put the master list in a vault for safekeeping.
- Susan Perhala who has worked and researched the cemeteries of Horry County has posted on Find-A-Grave website for the Ark Plantation Cemetery. Info. site.
- Sadie Parmley and Joyce Suliman have worked with Cad making video interviews of some of the Ark Plantation descendants. Goal is a video library.
- Ben Burroughs encourages seeking photos of those buried at the Ark Cemetery and gathering information about the photos, stories, copies of death certificates.
- Sadie; use PSA's on local media seeking photos and mementos. Ben and Mary Beth said they could write them and they would come from the city.
- Book "Coming Through" by Genevieve W. Chandler: Joyce and Sadie met with author's sister.
- Freewood's Farm: Sherry and Sadie to look there for pictures or information.

Joyce contacted Sen. Tim Scott, and for his office to provide assistance, we need to make a specific request for an item or goal. Ben gave example: A memorial stone listing the names of those confirmed interred at the Ark Cemetery.

Ben gave update regarding the *archaeological dig*. Susan McMillan will send a written report soon. He related the following:

- 10/22/2015- 1st dig day had a crew of nine. Brick was found in ten locations and was partially unearthed. There were some 19th and 20th century bricks, mortar, some plaster attached, and nails.
- 10/29/2015-2nd dig day- two screens were used. Feature #1 appears to be an overturned brick wall. Feature #2, found tabby mortar which would be 18th century (1700's) maybe from a chimney.

Once the dig is completed Susan's reports will go onto the City's website.

Ben found a 1939 aerial photo of the Surfside Beach area and believes he can see the roof of the house. He also shared interesting information about a very old shotgun bearing the inscription "John Tillman". It is owned by a woman in Florida who sent him photos of the gun. Ben took the photos to a gun expert who said it looked to be from the mid-1800's, maybe English. The owner said it came from South Carolina. All consistent for it to have possibly belonged to John M Tillman of the Ark.

Discussion for planning Heritage Day at the Ark:

Objective:

- Call attention to raising awareness and money to purchase the cemetery lots, and informational sites on property.
- Use this as an annual event to spur interest and honor annual traditions of the community (bell ringing, running of shad and mullet). Maybe a fish fry.

Plan Ideas:

- Date? First weekend of November was favored for large annual event.
 - Re-enactors
 - Sadie says there are many descendants of the people from the Ark in her church group and they would help and can sing old songs.
 - Carriage rides
 - Demonstrations; candle making (wax myrtle), soap making, planting sweet potato's, salt making, how indigo dye made.
 - Sell items
 - Sell/have food.
- Cad Holmes reminded us that Surfside Beach is in the Gullah-Geechee Corridor. May find ideas from their festivals.

Clemson students will be in Surfside Beach and will look at site and perhaps help with landscaping of the Ark Plantation Park site.

Meeting adjourned at 6:00p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sherry Singleton, Recording Secretary

