

Agenda
Timbuctoo Advisory Committee
Conference Call
January 15, 2020

- I. Review Agenda**
- II. Planning Task for Black History Month Program**
- III. *Preserving Our Cemeteries* February 29th 10:30 AM**
 - a. Budget for keynote speaker, music, refreshments, etc.
 - b. Program ads
 - c. Promoting program on Facebook, local churches and organizations
- IV. Other Business**
- V. Adjournment**

**Timbuctoo Advisory Committee
Conference Call Notes
January 15, 2020**

The conference call started at 6:34 pm. Present on the call were Denita Curry, Joyce Payne, Kent Pipes, Guy Weston, Mary Weston, Lynda Williams and resident Nancy Burkley.

The purpose of the call was to review and discuss the Planning Task for the Black History Program – *PRESERVING OUR CEMETERIES* on Saturday, February 29th, 10:30 AM, at Wesley AME Zion Church in Burlington. A SAVE THE DATE flyer is ready, the keynote speaker has to be finalized. Guy had a fundraiser for his birthday. He was successful in raising over \$1800 for Friends of Timbuctoo by asking Facebook friends to donate to:
HELP PRESERVE OUR CEMETERY.

Guy mentioned that there is not one place you can go to find out how many Black cemeteries there are in Burlington County and indicated that part of the background research for 2/29 would be to identify all of the cemeteries and the work they need. He also mentioned the national website *Findagrave.com* that can be used to find information on where people are buried. In this area Mount Moriah has the largest Black cemetery with more than 500 memorials. The focus on 2/29 will be on the cemeteries at Mount Moriah and Timbuctoo.

A budget of \$700 was discussed for the keynote speaker, music, entertainment and refreshments. Rev. Young at Wesley has some ideas for a keynote speaker that Guy will follow up with.

Fundraising - It is too late to get corporate sponsorships for this event. Lynda will check on the turn round time for a Walmart grant for other projects. There a lot of churches on Washington St. in Mt. Holly which have had interment at Mount Moriah. Can we approach other church organizations to contribute to our efforts (i.e. grave markers, fencing, etc.)?

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Kent will contact Pastor/Funeral Director, Timothy Hutton of T.L. Hutton Funeral Services in Burlington about getting funeral directors in South Jersey to contribute to historic Black Cemeteries. Nancy suggested contacting Mike Dolan of Dolan Contractors in Westampton for support.

Denita will coordinate contacting local churches and organizations to distribute palm card flyers. Most churches have Facebook pages that they can post an electronic copy of the flyer. 1,000 copies will be ordered. Flyer will be distribute to Wesley, Tabernacle, other churches and organizations. Denita ask that we contact her with any suggestion.

Teachers that are participating in the Timbuctoo curriculum activities will be at our Quarterly meeting on February 8th to give an update. We could also engage students in the Black History program.

We will have another call in about 2 weeks with more specific details. The called ended at 7:38 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Lynda Williams, Secretary

Agenda
Timbuctoo Advisory Committee
1st Quarter Meeting 2020
February 8, 2020

Review of Agenda

Review of 2020 Events

- Timbuctoo Day (9/19)
- “Tea” Fundraiser and Awareness Event in May or June; date undecided.
- Cemetery Preservation event at Wesley AME Zion Church (2/29)
 - Will print more Palm Cards with speaker detail on Monday when confirmed.
 - Rev. Young is working on music and praise dancers.
 - It’s too late to do a full-fledged program book, but we need something substantial enough to at least have ads from 2 funeral homes.
 - Should we ask a specified number of other organizations to contribute?
 - Next steps?

Cemetery Preservation Update:

- Title search was completed yesterday.
- Have had discussions with the AMEZ Presiding Elder and Wesley’s Pastor.
- We will establish a non-profit cemetery corporation this week to take title to the cemetery; will call it “Zion Wesleyan Methodist Episcopal African Cemetery” in honor of the original name; ensure the name is prominent in new fencing, i.e.: an archway over the entrance when new fencing is installed.

Other Business

Adjournment

**Westampton Township
Timbuctoo Advisory Committee
First Quarter Meeting
February 8, 2020**

The meeting was called to order by Guy Weston at 12:08 PM. Attendees were Denita Curry, JoAnn Donnelly, Joyce Payne, Kent Pipes, Guy Weston (via phone), Mary Weston and Lynda Williams.

The committee reviewed and discussed upcoming events scheduled for this year.

Timbuctoo Day

September 19th

Outdoor Fundraising Event at Timbuctoo May or June

A planning meeting is scheduled for March 28th to start working on both events.

Black History Program

"Cemetery Preservation"

Wesley AME Zion Church

February 29th

10:30 AM

We are waiting to confirm if W. Wilson Goode is available to be guest speaker. If he is not, Rev. Maureen Gerald, Executive Pastor at Shiloh Baptist Church in Trenton is available. Rev. Young is working on music and praise dancers. We hope to get sponsorship from T.L. Hutton and Mays funeral homes and we need to have a program booklet to acknowledge sponsorships. Need to consider the cost of printing and have enough sponsorship to offset the cost. Guy has agreed to put the program together. In an effort to generate more revenue for ads we agreed to offer the following:

\$200 Back Cover \$100 Full Page \$50 Half Page \$25 Patron Listing

Can we ask for support from other local churches, Tabernacle, Delaware Valley Baptist, Cathedral of Love, Alpha Baptist who may have interments in Mt. Moriah Cemetery? Each committee person will approach their church for a contribution. Let's see what commitments we can get within the next week. Mary will also contact Delaware Valley Baptist and Kent will talk to Christian Faith in Hainesport.

We need a flyer with the ad sizes, prices and due date, Guy will prepare. We discussed having light refreshments. Lynda will contact Joan Berkeley at Wesley for assistances.

The background on Timbuctoo Cemetery is that it was abandoned 100 years ago and there has been no recent documentation or activity. The owner of record is "Colored Cemetery". The last owner of record was an AME Zion congregation. It would be logical for the denomination of the church to take ownership of it as a church property that was abandoned. The title search was completed and the recommendation is for the AME Zion Church national organization to transfer title to the entity that is going to maintain the cemetery. Suggestion was for the local AME Zion church that was affiliated to do that. A corporation will be formed named *Zion Wesleyan Methodist Episcopalian African Church Cemetery*. A Board of Directors will be formed and consist of members from both Wesley AME Zion and the Timbuctoo Advisory Committee.

The Inspection Report on 114 Church Street is not on the Township Committee agenda yet, it's been postponed twice. The Township Administrator position vacated in January by James Brady has not been filled. We want to wait until this position is filled before bringing it up before the Township Committee again.

Guy is exploring whether *Parks and Open Space Grants* from the county to municipalities can be used for the cemetery. Timbuctoo has been awarded a \$5,000 grant from the county.

Kent asked is the cemetery closed or could it be open for interments? At this time, we are not able to do that. We need to have a geophysical survey to terminate exactly where the true boundaries are. The cost for the survey is \$8500. We would request grant funding for a project like that.

Abandon properties in Timbuctoo continue to be an issue. Township ordinances are not being enforced.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:15 PM

Respectfully submitted.
Lynda Williams, Secretary