**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” February 29th

Wesley AME Zion Church 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.

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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