



Greenville County Attorneys Office

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MEMORANDUM

TO: Fred Payne, Chairman
Members of the Public Works and Infrastructure Committee

FROM: Kim Wunder, Assistant County Attorney

DATE: November 24, 2014

RE: Request approval of relocation of graves

The County Attorney's Office has received a request from Mr. William Stovall, a licensed Funeral Director and consultant in cemetery operation, to relocate several graves on a piece of property in Southeastern Greenville County. Mr. Stovall has provided a letter detailing the process and also a copy of the legal notice published in search of any living relatives.

We request the Committee to approve the process to relocate the unidentified graves at the mentioned location.

Ms. Theresa Kizer, Clerk to Council
301 University Ridge, Ste. 2400
Greenville, SC 29601

November 19, 2013

Dear Ms. Kizer:

I have been asked by Deputy Attorney Dean Campbell to provide you with the details on a request we are seeking from Council regarding disinterring and reinterring a small number of early 1800's burials on a piece of land privately owned in Greenville. I am a South Carolina licensed funeral director and operate a consulting practice in cemetery operations. The owner of the property engaged me several months ago to supervise the process of relocating these burials.

We have completed the required 30 day time period for the legal ad concerning our application for permission to move these burials on this property located at I-85 and Pelham Road. This is a wooded and undeveloped 55 acre tract. My contact information was included in the legal notice which ran in the Greenville News. Included here is a copy of the Affidavit from the newspaper. I have not received any contact about the matter, and therefore, assume there will be no objection.

I was in Greenville on October 16 and cleared and staked off the perimeter of the area we will be working within. The plan is to bring in the CEO of the Wilbert Burial Vault Company there in Greenville to bring his crew to do the excavations under my supervision. He met with me onsite while I was there, and I believe that our plan is comprehensive and ready. I have carefully identified the known burials along with 3 additional possible ones all within the parameters. We will excavate each possibility to be sure that we remove all of them. They will be labeled, placed in concrete liners and reburied in the new cemetery in the same configuration in which we find them.

Attorney Campbell has advised me that there is nothing further that I need to provide for committee consideration of our request and full Council approval. There will be representation from our team at the December 2 committee meeting. Please advise me of anything addition we might need to provide.

Sincerely Yours,

William Stovall

Notice

To relatives of persons unknown buried in a defined section on a property north of Garlington Rd., Tax Map # 0533040100700 in southeastern Greenville Co. An archeologist has determined the graves pre-date 1850. The current property owner proposes to petition to Greenville County for permission to carefully relocate approximately ten graves of unknown persons to Wood Memorial Park in Greer. Applicable state statute is Section 27-43-10. A licensed funeral director is employed to supervise the project at no expense to any possible relatives. There are no inscribed stones or markers present.

Contact may be made to William Stovall, 20 Johnson Rd., Charleston, SC 29407; 843-708-3826 if you are a relative of persons buried on the property.



RECEIVED

APR 25 2007

GREENVILLE COUNTY
PLANNING COMMISSION

2:30 PM

Greenville County Historic Preservation Commission

To: Greenville County Planning Department
From: *RP* Rick Owens, Chairman, Greenville County Historic Preservation Commission
Subject: Garlington/Pelham Roads Gravesites

It has come to our attention there are some graves located on the property (Tax Map # 0533040100700) off Garlington and Pelham Roads. We have walked the property and surveyed the graves and recognize them to be unique and of an historic nature. An archeologist has inspected this property and it is his opinion the graves pre-date 1850. We are including photographs and a site map as to the location of the graves. It is our estimate there are eight to ten graves on this property site.

We hope you will consider our findings and notify the property owner of this information before this land is developed.

Archie L. Honbarrier, owner, PO Box 7027, High Point, NC 27264
Chris Hack, representative of the owner

C: Herman G Kirven, Jr. Chairman, Greenville County Council
James Barbare, Chairman, Greenville County Planning Department
Chris Hack, Representative for Honbarrier Property

February 2, 2015

Dear Greenville County Council and Committee members,

The Greenville County Historic Preservation Commission (GCHPC) was asked to assist the county with an early family cemetery off Pelham Road and I 85 this past fall.

Since then commission members have worked diligently to locate and identify the particular site. Other cemeteries near this property have been recorded, for instance the Smith and Walker cemetery, but this gravesite has been abandoned for many years and is located in a heavily wooded area many yards from Garlington Road. Mr. Kiriakides', representative of the property owner, tried to locate any relatives of this property through the required newspaper and local media back in Oct-November of 2014.

On Thursday, January 29th, Commissioners Anne Peden and Penny Forrester met at the site with Mr. Mike Kiriakides, and county legal representative, Kimberly Wunder, to observe and discuss what options to recommend regarding the request to relocate the graves. In the discussion Thursday, Mr. Kiriakides was in agreement to follow up with a GPR (Ground Penetrating Radar) to verify how many graves are located on this site. Currently, this grave site has 8 identified burials. A licensed mortician from Charleston, Bill Stovall, has been working with Mr. Kiriakides on the identification of the existing 8 graves and will assist in the preparation of the property upon the decision of County Council.

It is our understanding that Mr. Kiriakides and his group will 1) provide a GPR survey on this property after meeting with County Council subcommittee this Tuesday, February 3rd, 2) excavate all the identified graves on this site and relocate them to a nearby cemetery following the GPR survey recommendations and further oversight by GCHPC, and 3) install an historic stone marker to help tell the story of this family cemetery at the new site.

Therefore, Greenville County Historic Preservation Commission, with a majority vote, supports the relocation of this sacred ground to a cemetery where the remains will be reverently and properly maintained.

Thank you for your consideration, and please do not hesitate to contact me concerning this request.

Best Regards,

Anne Peden, Chairperson
Greenville County Preservation Commission
acpeden07@gmail.com
864-483-0062



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