

ACCEPTED DECEMBER 1, 2014

AFRICAN BURYING GROUND COMMITTEE
MEETING SUMMARY

OCTOBER 22, 2014 AT THE AFRICAN BURYING GROUND AT CHESTNUT STREET 4:30 P.M.

Present: Vernis Jackson, Chair; Councilor Dwyer,

Also Present: Jerome Meadows, Project Artist & Sculptor; Roberta Woodburn, Landscape Architect; Jack Kareckas, Project Construction Clerk CMA Engineers; Justin Gamester, VP Piscataqua Landscaping; Booth Hemingway, Owner Piscataqua Landscaping; Charlie Anderson, Full Circle Stone Works/Piscataqua Landscaping; Mark Hogan, Piscataqua Landscaping; Janet Prince, volunteer, George Carlisle, volunteer; Susan Carlisle, volunteer, Morey Goodman, Volunteer; Tracey Clarkson, volunteer; Jane James, volunteer; John P. Bohenko, City Manager; Dave Allen, Deputy City Manager; David Moore, Community Development Director; Peter Rice, Director of Public Works;

Absent: Mary Bailey (e); Kelvin Edwards (e); Valerie Cunningham (e); Stephanie Seacord and Rev. Hilson of the ABG volunteers; Nike Speltz, volunteers joined at the post meeting discussion

Chairperson Jackson recognized David Moore to open the meeting, which was held on site at the African Burying Ground an active construction site. He advised the assembled group that the purpose of the meeting was to bring together the African Burying Ground Committee members, the Fundraising Volunteers, and the construction team personnel, including Jerome Meadows and Roberta Woodburn to discuss the progress of the work on site and the next steps. He indicated that volunteer and Committee members were welcome to directly engage the team in questions, which they did. Representatives from Piscataqua Landscaping described on site activities and next steps and Mr. Meadows commented on artwork placement, preparation, and coordination between he and the rest of the construction team. There was also a brief discussion on the topic of reburial coffins and the detailed planning going into the construction of the coffins with a local wood sculptor. He, Mr. Cooper, met with Mr. Meadows on site during the week to discuss that coffin construction.

At the end of the meeting, Mr. Moore and Councilor Dwyer advised the group that the City Council had received an update on the project at their meeting on October 20th and Councilor Dwyer reiterated the plan to install the sculptural components close to the reburial ceremony, which is scheduled in the spring of 2015. The group then retired to the Seacoast African American Cultural Center for informal discussions with each other and the project artist.