

Hollins Working Group on Slavery and Its Contemporary Legacies

Minutes for meeting March 12 & Notes from discussion March 21

Present: Jon Bohland, Idella Glenn, Maria Jdid, Jenine Culligan, Karen Callaway, Courtney Chenette, Amy Dixon, Rebecca Rosen, Bill Krause, Maryke Barber.

Action items:

- Karen & Idella will contact Rev. Saunders and Minister Carter at First Baptist Church of Hollins about the Green Ridge Cemetery.
- Jon will contact Lauren Walker about Reunion programming.

USS Meeting

Will be held at William & Mary March 14-16, coinciding with the 2019 Lemon Project Symposium (<https://www.wm.edu/sites/lemonproject/announcements/spring-2019-uss-meeting.php>).

Attendees from Hollins WG are Idella, Jon, Karen, Bill, Maryke and Brittney Flowers. See notes.

Green Ridge Church Graveyard

The graveyard is on Plantation Road next to Honeytree; it was the burial place for Green Ridge Church, attended by African-Americans from Hollins. The land is not deeded to anyone, nor is it owned by the county. Bill Krause contacted Roanoke County, who put him in touch with Tom Klatka from the State Department of Historical Resources. Bill is investigating whether Roa. County can do any initial maintenance, and/or state funding may be available for upkeep. There are 133 graves, not all graves are marked. Brittney is assisting with identifying names on markers, and with mortuary research.

Discussion included the possibility of forming a 501 (c) (3) for maintenance of the site, and whether such an organization should be included in the First Baptist Church of Hollins, Hollins University, or a separate entity. Courtney pointed out the importance of considering who'd be responsible for doing taxes and other maintenance of a 501 (c) (3); also considering questions about property taxes and liability insurance.

Potential resources at Hollins include Kerry Edmonds, the Community Garden, BSA or Students Studying Slavery; at Roanoke Country, supervisor Phil North and/or the Parks and Recreation dept. First order of business is checking in with First Baptist Church of Hollins to ask for their preferences and concerns.

First Baptist Church of Hollins sign

Idella has talked to the church about their need for electronic signage, and to the administration about using funds donated for a memorial for this purpose (as direct support for the Hollins Community) instead. No final word yet; Jenine offered contact information for alternate quotes.

Board of Trustees

President Lawrence has agreed to our group presenting an update on our work at the May Board of Trustees meeting; we will also "preview" the apology proposal at this time.

March 21: Discussion after USS Meeting

Visibility and Funding:

- Our group will continue to try to join conversations to which our work is relevant, such as the current conversation following the student protest on race.
- There are a number of avenues and allies to explore:

Students:

- Can work together to craft specific demands for position working with SGA
- There needs to be collaboration between groups: SSS, BSA, HWG, the new Taskforce.

Administration:

- We should spend some time explaining our work and its various connections to campus initiatives to the administration: offering details and answering questions. Then, we should invite them to join there process.

Alumnae:

- Reaching alumni is important, as well as updating those who initially expressed interest in the Heritage Committee.
- Brittney has not presented her work to an audience of alums, but is interested.
- If programming is already full, perhaps we could prepare information for the alum packet. Or do both?
- Jon will contact Lauren Walker.

History Department:

- Hopefully the new history professor will be interested in joining our group.
- How can we invite the entire history department to be an ally?

Other Colleges & Universities

- Can funding, positions and/or other opportunities be shared between smaller schools?