

EXPLANATION: This Ordinance authorizes the minor subdivision and creation of the property identified as Block 28, Lot 1.01, for the preservation of the historic site known as the “Negro Slave Burying Ground,” and authorizes the deed memorializing same.

TOWNSHIP OF BEDMINSTER

ORDINANCE NO. 2013-016

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING AND ACCEPTING THE MINOR SUBDIVISION AND CREATION OF THE PROPERTY IDENTIFIED AS BLOCK 28, LOT 1.01 IN THE TOWNSHIP OF BEDMINSTER, ALONG WITH AUTHORIZING THE DEED MEMORIALIZING SAME.

WHEREAS, the Township of Bedminster is the record owner of the property identified as Block 28, Lot 1 in the Township of Bedminster, County of Somerset, State of New Jersey, located along Hillside Avenue, and previously the site of the Township municipal complex (the “Property”); and

WHEREAS, the Somerset County Historical Society has requested that the Township designate and preserve the historic site known as the “Negro Slave Burying Ground” located on a .100 acre portion of the Property; and

WHEREAS, the Somerset County Historical Society has identified the “Negro Slave Burying Ground” a very significant historic site for the State, County and Township; and

WHEREAS, in a deed for the property dated 1801, an indenture for the sale of one-tenth of an acre from Aaron Melick to three African American men stated that this site was to be used as a burying ground for “Black people in the neighborhood”; and

WHEREAS, the Somerset County Historical Society has indicated that prior to the Revolutionary War, African Americans, including free blacks, were not allowed to own land in New Jersey and it was only after the Revolution that restrictions were gradually lifted; and, according to the Somerset County Historical Society, the 1801 transaction is one of the earliest known sales in the State of New Jersey where slaves were permitted to acquire land and it is the only reported sale where the land was specifically acquired as a buying ground; and

WHEREAS, the Somerset County Historical Society has requested that an historic marker be placed on the site commemorating the contribution that slaves made to the region’s economic development and the special historic significance of the site; and

WHEREAS, the Township Committee of the Township of Bedminster recognizes the historical significance of the site and desires to commemorate the site and preserve it; and

WHEREAS, Lot 1.01 in Block 28 will be created and subdivided from the Property by map entitled “Division of Land – Lot 1, Block 28, Bedminster Township, Somerset County, New Jersey,” dated October 10, 2013; and as initially authorized by Resolution No. 2013-079 adopted by the Township Committee of the Township of Bedminster; and

WHEREAS, the Township desires to record a deed creating the subdivision of the one-tenth (.1) acre site, now known as Lot 1.01, as a historic area, with a marker to be placed on the site; and

WHEREAS, the Township is not required by law to obtain subdivision approval from the Bedminster Township Land Use Board since a municipal sovereign entity is exempt from obtaining such approval; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to the Local Lands and Buildings Law, N.J.S.A. 40A:12-1, *et seq.* (“LLBL”), by ordinance the Township is authorized to transfer and accept interests in real property; and

WHEREAS, the Bargain and Sale Deed with Covenants Against Grantor’s Acts, in the form attached hereto and made a part hereof, has been prepared by the Township Attorney; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Township Committee of the Township of Bedminster find it to be in the best interests of the Township and its citizenry to authorize the minor subdivision, to authorize and accept the grant of the Bargain and Sale Deed with Covenants Against Grantor’s Acts creating the subdivision of the one-tenth (.1) acre site, now known as Lot 1.01, from the Property.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Township Committee of the Township of Bedminster, in the County of Somerset and State of New Jersey, as follows:

1. The Township of Bedminster authorizes the subdivision of the one-tenth (.1) acre site, to be known as Lot 1.01, from the property identified as Lot 1 in Block 28, and preservation of same as a historic area, with a marker to be placed on the site.
2. The Township also authorizes and accepts the grant of the Bargain and Sale Deed with Covenants Against Grantor’s Acts creating the subdivision, and authorizes the Mayor and Township Clerk to execute same in the form attached hereto.
3. The Township Attorney, and other appropriate Township officials are authorized and directed to take all required actions to complete the Township’s grant, acceptance and recording of the Bargain and Sale Deed with Covenants Against Grantor’s Acts with the Somerset County Clerk.

4. This Ordinance shall take effect upon final passage, adoption and publication according to law.
5. If any article, section, subsection, paragraph, phrase or sentence is, for any reason, held to be unconstitutional or invalid, said article, section, subsection, paragraph, phrase or sentence shall be deemed severable.

Introduced by:

Passed:

Published:

Adopted:

ATTEST:

**TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE OF
THE TOWNSHIP OF BEDMINSTER**

By: _____
Judith Sullivan, RMC
Township Clerk

By: _____
Steven E. Parker, Mayor

Introduced	Seconded	Township Committee	Aye	Nay	Abstain	Absent
		Steven E. Parker, Mayor				
		Bernie Pane				
		Carolyn Freeman				
		Lawrence F. Jacobs				
		Staci Santucci				