

Explanation: This Resolution authorizes the submission of a grant application with the Somerset County Cultural and Heritage Commission for the placement of a historic marker recognizing the African Burying Ground located on Hillside Avenue, Bedminster Township. (0.1 acre portion of Block 28, Lot 1) as a local historic site to be preserved and authorizes placement of an historic marker on the site.

**TOWNSHIP OF BEDMINSTER
RESOLUTION NO. 2013-116**

WHEREAS, the Somerset County Historical Society has requested that the Township Committee of the Township of Bedminster designate and preserve the African Burying Ground located on a .100 acre parcel of land on Hillside Avenue in Bedminster Township (portion of Block 28, Lot 1); 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 Somerset County Historical Society has identified that there is grant funding available for an historic marker through the Somerset County Cultural and Heritage Commission in their 2014 budget and suggested that Bedminster Township submit a grant application for this funding, 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, the Bedminster Historic Commission has determined that an historic marker for the site should state:

AFRICAN BURYING GROUND

In memory of the three African American men who purchased one Tenth of an acre on June 22, 1801 from Aaron Melick, for the sum of Three dollars, to establish a burying ground for "Black people of the neighborhood". This transaction is the earliest known purchase of land in New Jersey by slaves for a burial ground.

It was referred to as "God's Acre" in Andrew D. Melick Jr.'s 1889 book "The Story of an Old Farm".

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Township Committee authorizes the Mayor and Township Clerk to submit the required grant application on behalf of Bedminster Township.

ATTEST:

BEDMINSTER TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE

BY: Judith A. Sullivan
Judith A. Sullivan
Township Clerk

BY: [Signature]
Steven E. Parker
Mayor

CERTIFICATION

I, Judith A. Sullivan, Township Clerk of the Township of Bedminster, County of Somerset, State of New Jersey, do hereby certify the foregoing to be a true and exact copy of a Resolution adopted by the Township Committee at a Regular Meeting held on October 7, 2013

Judith A. Sullivan
Judith A. Sullivan, Township Clerk

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