



Betty Jo Mahan <bettyjo.mahan@knoxmpc.org>

[MPC Comment] RE: Bentley Fields, Cavett's Station (40KN67), and Mars Hill Cemetery investigations

Saville, Steve <Steve.Saville@amecfw.com>

Tue, Nov 8, 2016 at 12:08 PM

Reply-To: steve.saville@amecfw.com

To: "commission@knoxmpc.org" <commission@knoxmpc.org>

Commissioners Longmire, Tocher, Phillips, Roth, Smith, Thomas, Anders, Bustin, Clancy, Cole, Crowder, Eason, Goodwin, Johnson, and Lomax –

I've reviewed CRA's most recent GPR Report on Cavett's Station (40KN67) and Mars Hill Cemetery (attached). For your consideration and support, please see the points below.

Points supporting additional field investigation, and protection if/when development proceeds:

- CRA identified a foundation-like GPR anomaly, and speculated the feature to be church foundation, farm building, or Cavett's Station;
- GPR anomalies in the eastern survey block are worth additional review;
- Features of interest have been found in all GPR surveys conducted to date. Each successive GPR survey has stepped out in area from the prior, and each has found features of interest. The nature and extent of potential graves and artifacts has not been established.

And opinions:

- The public should be allowed to review all GPR data collected, not just those data and images presented in the report;
- The public should be given 30 days to act upon the information presented in the most recent GPR Report (dated Oct. 31st, less than two weeks prior to MPC's vote);
- MPC should support further investigation on site.
- Features of interest have been found in all GPR surveys conducted to date. Each successive GPR survey has stepped out in area from the prior, and each has found features of interest. The nature and extent of potential graves and artifacts has not been established.
- Further investigation is necessary to define the nature and extent of features of interest.

Thanks for your consideration on the matter –

Steve Saville, Professional Geologist (N.C. #2132)

1017 West Nokomis Circle

Knoxville Resident

Cavett Descendent

From: Saville, Steve
Sent: Sunday, October 30, 2016 2:37 PM
To: 'commission@knoxmpc.org' <commission@knoxmpc.org>
Subject: Bentley Fields, Cavett's Station (40KN67), and Mars Hill Cemetery investigations

Commissioners Longmire, Tocher, Phillips, Roth, Smith, Thomas, Anders, Bustin, Clancy, Cole, Crowder, Eason, Goodwin, Johnson, and Lomax –

I am a Knoxville resident, Moses Cavett descendent, and licensed professional geologist. I am writing to request your vote to allow time to investigate and protect historic graves within the proposed Bentley Fields development (MPC FILE #: 5-SE-16-C; attached).

The proposed Bentley Fields development site is adjacent to Mars Hill Cemetery, which contains the remains of some of Knox County's earliest settlers. In addition to being an historic cemetery, archaeologists believe victims of the 1793 Massacre at Cavett's Station – my ancestors – are also buried at Mars Hill Cemetery.

Graves from Mars Hill Cemetery are thought to extend into the Bentley Fields development site. To test this theory, geophysical inspections have been performed in recent months to determine if grave-like features are present in the subsurface of the Bentley Fields development site. At least one recent geophysical inspection has identified grave-like features in the subsurface of the Bentley Fields development site. These data appear to confirm that graves from Mars Hill Cemetery extend into the Bentley Field development site. These data also indicate that more graves may be present in the Bentley Fields development site.

Any grave and historic artifact within the Bentley Fields development site is at risk of damage or destruction if development proceeds blindly. Given the presence of grave-like features in the subsurface of the Bentley Fields development site, the next responsible step is to perform a field investigation to determine the nature and extent of graves prior to construction.

As a licensed professional geologist with 15 years of experience conducting field investigations, I recommend a field investigation:

- 1) Be performed prior to any construction activity on the Bentley Field project site;
- 2) Apply ground penetrating radar (GPR) or other industry-standard, non-intrusive data collection method;
- 3) Include intrusive investigation, if warranted and permitted, to identify the subsurface item (e.g., grave or not grave);
- 4) Reasonably define the nature and extent of graves and artifacts within the 12ac property related to Mars Hill Cemetery or the Cavett's Station Massacre, and
- 5) Include at least a 30 day public and peer review of all data (incl. GPR data) to ensure appropriate data quality, data coverage, and data interpretation.

As a direct descendent of Moses Cavett, I strongly suggest you consider voting such that a responsible field investigation may be performed prior to further action on the Bentley Fields development site. Anything less than a field investigation as defined above is irresponsible to those interred and their descendants.

This is an opportunity for Knox County to investigate a physical link to one of its most important chapters before being obscured by the progress of our city. Please consider voting at MPC's November 10th meeting such that this parcel may be investigated responsibly, and not developed blindly.

Respectfully,

Steve Saville, Professional Geologist (N.C. #2132)

1017 West Nokomis Circle

Knoxville Resident

Cavett Descendent



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 **CRA Ground Penetrating Radar Study Report 11-04-16.pdf**
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