



# Legislation

## BOL Meeting Minutes - Final

Committee Chair: Colin Smith

800 Michaelian Office Bldg.  
148 Martine Avenue, 8th Floor  
White Plains, NY 10601  
www.westchesterlegislators.com

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Thursday, October 13, 2022

1:30 PM

Committee Room

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### CALL TO ORDER

*Please note: Meetings of the Board of Legislators and its committees are held at the Michaelian Office Building, 148 Martine Avenue, White Plains, New York, 10601, and remotely via the WebEx video conferencing system. Legislators may participate in person or via Webex. Members of the public may attend meetings in person at any of its locations, or view it online on the Westchester County Legislature's website: this website also provides links to materials for all matters to be discussed at a given meeting.*

*With a quorum present, Chair Smith called the meeting to order at 1:41 PM.*

*Others in Attendance: BOL - Legislator Catherine Parker, Legislator Erika Pierce, Legislator Jewel Williams Johnson, Legislator Tyrae Woodson Samuels, Dayana Gomez, Shatika Parker; Members of the Public - John Williams of Mount Hope A.M.E. Zion Church, Leah Caro of Hudson Gateway Association of Realtors*

**Present:** Committee Chair Smith, Legislator Barr, Legislator Borgia, Legislator Boykin, Legislator Cunzio, Committee Vice-Chair Gashi and Legislator Maher

**Remote:** Legislator Johnson and Legislator Shimsky

### MINUTES APPROVAL

September 22, 2022 at 1:00 PM Minutes

On motion of Legislator Cunzio, seconded by Legislator Barr, the minutes were approved. The motion carried unanimously.

### I. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

#### 1. [ACT-2022-142](#) **ACT-Quitclaim Deed-Mount Hope A.M.E. Zion Church**

AN ACT to release any title or interest the County of Westchester may have and authorize the execution and delivery of a quitclaim deed to Mount Hope A.M.E. Zion Church for approximately 6.30 acres of property in the Town of Harrison.

**SUBMITTED BY: COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATION**

Guests: Jeff Goldman-Senior Assistant County Attorney at Department of Law; Rev. Dr. Gregory Robeson Smith-Senior Pastor at Mount Hope A.M.E. Zion Church; Dr. Edythe Ann Quinn-Former Town of Harrison Historian, and author of Freedom Journey: Black Civil War Soldiers and the Hills Community Westchester County, NY; Bill Stump-Camp Commander Augustus van Horne Ellis Camp #124 Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

*Chair Smith asked Legislator Boykin to speak on the item, who gave some additional information about its background regarding the Civil War Era African American burial ground located on the property. Rev. Dr. Smith spoke about the history of Mount Hope AME Zion Church and its relationship to the property. He spoke about working with the County and various stakeholders to research the property to find out how to obtain ownership of it. Dr. Quinn then went through a PowerPoint presentation on the history of the Stony Hill Cemetery and the role the church has played in the African American community in the area from its inception to present day. She further noted that the Stony Hill Cemetery entered the National Register of Historic Places in 1999. Mr. Stump spoke about the history of his organization and how they are charged with keeping alive the memory of the veterans of the Civil War, along with how it has intersected with the property, such as ensuring all veteran graves are marked appropriately. He added that his organization plans to support Mount Hope AME Zion Church and the cemetery by acquiring headstones from the federal government by compiling and submitting records of those laid to rest. Further discussion ensued on the individual veterans and graves located on the property. Mr. Goldman spoke about the legislation that would authorize Westchester County to execute and deliver a quitclaim deed to Mount Hope AME Zion Church, in essence conveying the title to the church. Further discussion ensued on the history of the Civil War and the soldiers buried in the cemetery.*

This ACT was signed by committee and referred to Board of Legislators

**Aye:** Committee Chair Smith, Legislator Barr, Legislator Boykin, Legislator Cunzio, Legislator Johnson and Legislator Maher

**Away:** Borgia, Committee Vice-Chair Gashi and Legislator Shimsky

## **II. OTHER BUSINESS**

## **III. RECEIVE & FILE**

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Moved by Legislator Cunzio, seconded by Legislator Johnson, the Committee adjourned at 3:09 PM.