

St. Mary's County, Maryland
HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION
Minutes of the meeting held on
April 26, 2012

Present: Carol Moody, Chair
George Donely, Member
Mary Farrar, Member
Rob Gibbs, Member
Scott Lawrence, Member
Ruth Mitchell, Member
Mike Smolek, Member
Grace Mary Brady

Call to Order: The regularly scheduled meeting of the HPC was called to order at 4 p.m.

Recognition of Guests: Franklin Robinson, Chair of the Charles County Historic Preservation Commission; Alvin Smith, Jr., Vice-Chair of the Charles County Historic Preservation Commission; Dr. Julie King (Professor, Archaeologist and Workshop Consultant)

Approval of Agenda: Motion by Mr. Lawrence, seconded by Mr. Gibb to approve the Agenda as submitted. Motion passed unanimously.

Approval of Minutes: Motion by Mr. Lawrence, seconded by Mr. Smolek to approve the March 22, 2012 minutes. Motion passed unanimously.

Report: Historic Preservation (Grace Mary Brady, Historic Preservation Planner II)

- Handled 28 customer service requests.
- Two demolition requests.
- TEC meeting – 2 submittals required historic review (no effect to historic properties).
- So. MD War of 1812 Presentation by Dr. Ralph Eshelman held at St. Mary's College on April 4th. More than 100 attendees.
- 375 Anniversary Sheriff Book work continues with Linda Reno, Tyler Mattingly and Cindy Allen. We are researching to confirm the Sheriff Commissions for all 375 years.
- Sheriff's Book – I continue to work with George McWilliams, the illustrator for the final first-10 illustration; have received 4 of the 11.
- African American Grant Training at Library with Mr. Thomas to stabilize and restore SM – 600 (African American Slave Home/Mechanicsville). Training was provided by the MD Historic Trust and African American Commission.
- River Springs with Linda Reno, Tyler Mattingly, Dr. Hughes and Myra Hughes, archiving Blackistone photos and records.
- Met with group at home of Jonathan Beasley....Civil War (HPC members, Moody, Donely, Smolek and Mitchell present) Mr. and Mrs. Don Shoemette, Dr. and Mrs. Eshelman and the sons of the Confederate Soldiers. Book signing for Mr. Rob Long.
- Annual St. Mary's County Historical Dinner featuring Mr. Dodd and Hurry as guest speakers about watermen and boat building in St. Mary's county. More than 125 attendees.
- Made arrangements for Dr. King to present a workshop to HPC Commission members pertaining to: Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act: From a Former Council Member's Point of View.
- Going Green Expo handouts and exhibit for War of 1812 and Historic and Rural Roads. Expo held on April 21st.
- Preservation Maryland Radio Show on April 25th for the 2012 Maryland Most Endangered Sites – Dameron House.

Old Business:

Deferred due to workshop/training class.

New Business:

- 1) Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act: How It Works from a Former Council Member's Point of View; Dr. Julie King.

Dr. King presented a comprehensive overview of the entire Section 106 process:

Getting started in the Section 106 process; Section 106 consultation about archaeology; Determining which archaeological sites are significant; Reaching agreement on appropriate treatment; Completing the Section 106 process. Each segment of the presentation was filled with examples of what worked well and what did not. Each member and visitors were provided with a 32 page handout on Section 106 Archaeology Guidance and a copy of the Citizen's Guide to Section 106 Review.

Dr. King explained in great detail the roles of the Federal Agencies versus the roles of the State Historic Preservation Office and the local Historic Preservation Commission. She also covered the various eligibility requirements in determining whether an archaeological site was eligible for the National Register. She also explained what constituted a "reasonable and good faith effort" not only in identifying historic properties, but in involving the public in the process. **This issue generated numerous questions.**

Questions were asked and answered for more than one-half hour.

The workshop/training participants thanked Dr. King for her time and presentation. It was excellent.

- 2) Vote on Historic Preservation Awards.
 - 1) Submittal by George Donely nominating Mrs. Francis (Tiny) Taylor and the parishioners of St. Ignatius Church for a preservation project award for restoration work performed by the Society for the Preservation of St. Ignatius Church. Motion by Mr. Lawrence, seconded by Ms. Mitchell to approve nomination.
 - 2) Submittal by Kathy Bailey nominating John Sothoron and the Charlotte Hall School Alumni Association for a preservation project award for interpreting the story of the Charlotte Hall School and preserving the artifacts which are displayed at the White House in Charlotte Hall. Motion by Mr. Smolek, seconded by Mr. Gibbs to approve nomination.
 - 3) Submittal by Grace Mary Brady nominating Silas Hurry (HSMC); Nancy Dodge (Cremona); Bill Cullins (Cullins Trucking and Mount Chance Farm) and Wayne Guy and sons, (Guy's Firewood) for a preservation service award for contribution to the "Historic Barns of Maryland" Public Television Show. Motion by Ms. Mitchell, seconded by Mr. Lawrence to approve nomination.
 - 4) Submittal by Rob Gibbs nominating Sotterley Garden Guild (Robert Aldridge, Chair) for a lifetime achievement award for planning, preparing and maintaining the historic gardens and sundry horticulture features that make Sotterley the premier plantation on the Patuxent watershed since 1976. Motion by Mr. Lawrence, seconded by Ms. Farrar to approve nomination.
 - 5) Submittal by George Matisick nominating Father Brian Sanderfoot and the parishioners of St. Francis Xavier Church for a preservation project award for the restoration of historic oil painting of St. Francis Xavier; for raising funds to preserve and survey the cemetery of St. Francis Xavier Church founded in 1661; and other preservation efforts. Motion by Mr. Lawrence, seconded by George Donely to approve nomination.

Ms. Brady agreed to request an appointment before the St. Mary's County Commissioners for presentation of awards on May 22nd, time to be determined. Ms. Brady agreed to also prepare the Proclamations for the Awards.

3) Historic Preservation Commission Vacancies in June, 2012.

Ms. Brady talked about the four vacancies on the Historic Preservation Commission which would go into effect June 30, 2012. Ms. Brady stated that Mr. Smolek had been appointed to fill a vacancy caused by a resignation so that if he considered being appointed to the HPC again, it would actually count as his first-year term. Mr. Lawrence, Ms. Moody and Ms. Mitchell were completing full three-year terms. She also stated that Ms. Ruth Mitchell had reached the end of her term limits (two three-year terms). Mr. Gibbs asked Ms. Brady to inquire with the county attorney if a letter from the Historic Preservation Commission could be written asking Ms. Mitchell's term be extended. Ms. Brady stated that the Commissioners had established term limits for all its boards and commissions, Rules of Procedure, and Bylaws to establish continuity. The term limits for all board member are two three-year term limits.

Mr. Lawrence, Ms. Moody and Mr. Smolek all expressed a willingness to be re-appointed. Motion by Mr. Gibbs, seconded by Ms. Mitchell that Mr. Lawrence, Ms. Moody and Mr. Smolek be re-appointed to the Historic Preservation Commission. Ms. Brady stated that she would send Sarah Cannavo a formal letter requesting that the three current members be re-appointed for another term on the Historic Preservation Commission.

Items from the floor: Ms. Brady mentioned that she was in the process of scheduling one more workshop and had sent the consultant potential dates in May. She also announced that the Historic Preservation Awards were scheduled before the County Commissioners for Tuesday, May 22, with the time to be determined.

Announcements: Mr. Smolek announced a change in time for the PAX River Tour scheduled for May 24th at 1p.m. and offered to meet everyone at Linda's Cafe in Lexington Park before the tour began.

Adjournment: Motion made by Mr. Gibbs, seconded by Mr. Lawrence to adjourn the meeting, which passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 5:55 p.m.

Submitted By:

Signed by:

Grace Mary Brady

Carol Moody, Chair

Date: Approved on May 21, 2012