

St. Mary's County, Maryland
HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

Minutes of the meeting held on
February 25, 2010

Present: Rob Gibbs, Chair
Victor Govier
Scott Lawrence, Member
Ruth Mitchell, Member
Grace Mary Brady, Staff
Carol Moody, Excused
Susan Erichsen, Excused
Hal Willard, Excused

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 4 p.m. Commission requirements were read for the record by Mr. Gibbs.

Roll call and confirmation of quorum: Mr. Gibbs called roll and confirmed that a quorum was present.

Commission requirements read for the record: Commission requirements were read for the record.

Recognition of Guests: Frank Tippet

Approval of Agenda: Motion by Ms. Mitchell, seconded by Mr. Lawrence to accept the Agenda as presented. Motion passed unanimously.

Approval of Minutes: Motion by Mr. Lawrence, second by Ms. Mitchell to approved the Minutes as amended. Motion passed unanimously.

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

- Worked for 2 weeks+ on Ranzetta Book.
- Re-scheduled Barn Summit – mailing of invitations to 156 (**summit canceled due to snow blizzard**) – has been rescheduled to April 30, 10 to noon, King's Landing Park, Huntingtown.
- Continue to support the 6-year review of the Comprehensive Plan by way of team and Board of County Commissioner work sessions.
- Documented 1 site slated for demolition.
- Reviewed Technical Evaluation Committee (TEC) submissions – no historic sites.
- Handled 13 customer service requests.
- February 25th meeting of the St. Mary's County War of 1812 Committee – sent letter to John Maounis asking that St. Mary's County be included in the National Star Spangled Banner Trail, Raiders & Invaders Map, documentation of primary source evidence, notified elected officials.
- Attended pre-application meeting – 2 historic sites.
- Historic Preservation Commission – worked on Preservation Awards.

Old Business: Ms. Brady reported that a Historic Preservation Award Nomination Form had been received for Linda Reno. Mr. Lawrence said that he had wanted to nominate Linda Reno for a service preservation award, but thought that she had been honored before. Ms. Brady said that she would check and report back to the Committee at its next meeting.

New Business:

1) Discussion of Cemetery project: Mr. Gibbs presented each committee member with a report from the Cemetery Subcommittee dated February 16, 2010. Mr. Gibbs, Mr. Lawrence and Ms. Mitchell met to discuss plans to move forward with a St. Mary's County Cemetery location project.

Project History: Mr. Gibbs said that several years ago a cemetery subcommittee was formed out of concern for the condition of cemeteries within St. Mary's County. Specifically there was a sentiment expressed by the HPC that private cemeteries (those located on private property) may be threatened due to a number of factors. Everyone thought that is they could gather the information on known locations of private cemeteries then there may be a way to protect this valuable resource during future planning of development projects. To meet this goal, Mr. Gibbs began compiling a database that included all known cemeteries within the County. This inventory includes public cemeteries, church owned cemeteries and known private property cemeteries. The data was gathered by examining published material, largely collected for genealogical purposes. Mr. Himmelheber, former HPC Chair, also worked on this project and provided information. Decisions were discussed as to what information the Cemetery Inventory should include.

- a. General information-name, location, GPS coordinates, Tax/Block/Parcel, and MHT ID# (where applicable).
- b. Cemetery information: ownership, inventory, items present (markers, fencing, statuary, etc.)
- c. Cemetery Reference: sources in print, digital and photographic format.

The subcommittee discussed ways to move forward and suggestions were made that a brochure be produced; that a mass mailing of the brochure be considered; create a separate web page so that potential brochure recipients could go online and fill out a questionnaire. Ms. Brady offered to help with the brochure and noted that there were no funds available in this year's budget for a mass mailing.

Other suggestions included adding to the data base specific information regarding each cemetery (e.g. photos, oral histories)

Questions were raised about where the cemetery Inventory and documentation should be housed. Ms. Brady suggested the Historical Society indicating that the Calvert Historical Society had actually undertaken the cemetery project in Calvert County and housed all of the material at Linden House. Ms. Mitchell didn't think the Historical Society was a good choice citing examples of not being able to find items that were supposed to be on hand there. Ms. Brady said that the material certainly could be kept in the office of Land Use and Growth Management. Currently, Mr. Gibbs has the files on his computer at home. No decision was made for where this material and information would be housed.

2) HPC Newsletter – In January, Ms. Erichsen offered to chair this subcommittee. She submitted examples of a layout for the future newsletter. Carol Moody, Rob Gibbs and Gracie Brady offered to help with the newsletter. Ms. Erichsen would send an e-mail to all the members to schedule a meeting of the newsletter subcommittee.

Items from the floor – None.

Announcements – Mr. Tippet talked about the Clements Hill Cemetery. He offered to assist the committee with the cemetery project.

Adjournment – Motion by Mr. Lawrence, seconded by Mr. Govier to adjourn the meeting, which passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 5:30 p.m.

Submitted By: Grace Mary Brady

Signed by: _____
Robert Gibbs, Chair

Date: _____