

St. Mary's County, Maryland
HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION
February 25, 2016

Present: Linda Reno, Chair
Rob Gibbs, Member
Pete Himmelheber, Member
Eve Love, Member
Kent Randell, Member
Sean M. Wickers, Member
Teresa Wilson, Member
Grace Mary Brady, Staff

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

Recognition of Guests: Carolyn Laray, Bill Moody, Carol Moody, Vincent Turner, Lindsay Halterman, Margaret Oliver.

Approval of Agenda:

Motion by Mr. Himmelheber, seconded by Mr. Gibbs to approve the Agenda, which passed unanimously.

Approval of Minutes:

Motion by Mr. Gibbs, seconded by Mr. Himmelheber to approve the January 28, 2016 minutes, which passed unanimously.

Reports:

- Nineteen customer service requests.
- Three demolition requests this month.
- Division staff meeting, TEC meeting, HPC meeting, CLG Grant Meetings.
- Meeting with Sheriff Cameron, Linda Reno, Carol Moody, MaryAnn Thompson, Jeffrey McLane, working on the new Sheriff's Book.
- Blight Ordinance meeting with Phil Shire, Dave Weiskopf, Bill Hunt, and Inspections staff – blight as it pertains to historic structures and zoning ordinance requirements.
- Continue to work with Bill Hunt on Zoning Ordinance changes – on-going.
- Working with college intern, Vincent Turner, on scanning in Inventory of Historic Places information.
- Went to the Maryland State Archives – found information on St. Mary's County Jails mixed in with Court House papers. Found floor plans, costs, etc.

Old Business:

1) Cemetery Committee Update – Rob Gibbs

Mr. Gibbs prepared a St. Mary's County Cemetery Project Summary as of February, 2016. The report covered all the election districts with the number of cemeteries in each district, broken down by Church cemeteries; government or public cemeteries or private cemeteries. He reminded everyone that copies of all the cemetery information was available to the public through the St. Mary's County libraries.

2) Speaker's Bureau – Rob Gibbs

Mr. Gibbs prepared a report which included suggestions for future speakers: He also included a list of books with their authors as possible candidates for a speaker's series. He talked about some of the research projects such as recent excavations at St. Mary's City; St. Mary's County Government with Rising Sea Level study or NewTowne Manor Project as possible subjects for future series.

3) Zoning Ordinance Update – Bill Hunt

Ms. Brady talked about the importance of updating the Zoning Ordinance so that the St. Mary's County Historic Preservation Commission wouldn't lose its CLG status. She said that she would send all the components to the newly updated Ordinance to each member so they would have plenty of time to review before the March meeting.

4) Sea Level Rise event in Annapolis – written report from Carol Moody.
Ms. Moody agreed to e-mail the report to the HPC members.

5) MAHDC training update
Ms. Brady reported that she had scheduled the last training for the year for April 28th from 3:30 to 5 p.m. during the regularly scheduled meeting of the HPC. She also said that she would be inviting members from other county Historic Preservation/District Commissions to participate in the training.

New Business:

1) The St. Mary's County Tourism & Hospitality Master Plan presentation by Carolyn Laray.
Ms. Laray presented Commission members and guests with a hand-out featuring the Tourism and Hospitality Master Plan. She spoke about the Plan Components: Phase I would include research and analysis to help define specific priorities and areas of focus for the master plan. Phase II would be the strategy for development and implementation of specific projects, initiatives and investments to drive tourism development moving forward. Ms. Laray asked for feedback and members suggested signage, genealogy, roads, promotion of religious freedom trail, St. John's was under-utilized; better communication and partnership with other historic sites. Mr. Moody asked what the time line was. Ms. Laray said they hoped to complete Phase I by April and Phase II by August.

Commission members thanked Ms. Laray for including them in the process. They really enjoyed the presentation.

2) Annual Historic Awards – 2016 – history of previous awards – Grace Mary Brady
Ms. Brady passed out a Chronology of Awards given since 1999. She also passed out copies of the Nomination Form indicating that nominations would have to be voted on at the March 24th meeting.

3) Business Cards for HPC members.
Ms. Brady asked the members how many business cards each of them wanted. They all felt 50 cards each would be sufficient.

Items from the Floor:

None

Announcements:

None

Adjournment: Motion by Mr. Himmelheber, seconded by Ms. Love to adjourn the meeting, which passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 5:20 p.m.

Submitted By:

Signed by:

Grace Mary Brady

Linda Reno, Chair

Date: Approved on March 24, 2016