

## HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

### Minutes of the meeting held on February 23, 2006 at the Department of Land Use and Growth Management

**Members Present:** Peter Himmelheber, HPC Chairman  
Hal Willard, Vice Chairman  
James Grusholt, Member  
Mary Hayden, Member  
Margaret McCoy Padukiewicz, Member  
Jack Williamson, Member  
Teresa Wilson, LUGM Staff  
Mr. Tippett, citizen

**Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 4:00 p.m.

**Approval of Minutes:** The minutes of the January 26, 2006 meeting were approved as corrected.

#### **Report on the Search for Grave Sites**

Mr. Himmelheber and Mr. Willard obtained permission to enter property off Route 5 adjacent to Winter's Sheet Metal. Mr. Himmelheber noted that in the 1850s the property had belonged to the Evans family who purchased it from the Thompson family. On the property deed, the Thompsons reserved the right to visit family graves there. After some time walking the property, Mr. Himmelheber and Mr. Willard came upon an area in which extensive perc tests had been performed. They continued up a hill where cedar trees and running cedar were planted, which may indicate that this spot was once a house or gravesite. Mr. Willard recorded the locations with his GPS equipment. They also found several large rocks that had been placed there. Mr. Himmelheber noted that the land was sold to a lumber company in 1850 and now belongs to the Jones family. Although no grave markers were located, Mr. Himmelheber was satisfied that they had located a probable family cemetery that could be noted in a database and tracked.

#### **Discussion with Kathryn Chaney, GIS Operator**

Ms. Kathryn Chaney of Land Use and Growth Management listened to Mr. Himmelheber and Willard's account of their site visit. She was invited by the HPC to discuss how information collected about cemeteries could be recorded and tracked.

Mr. Himmelheber said that he would like to be able to put the information on the location of cemeteries into a database that would alert the HPC and historic preservation planner when activity is occurring on a parcel containing a cemetery. Ms. Chaney noted that historic properties are currently entered into the portion of county's HTE system which tracks land use activity. When a person requests a permit for any action on a parcel containing a note about historic property, a flag comes up and the preservation planner is alerted. She stated that cemetery sites could be entered in the same manner and would be flagged if activity occurs on the parcel. Ms. Chaney stated that St. Mary's County uses the NAD 83 foot datum maps to plot all its property locations. Mr. Willard said that his GPS recorder was set to WGS 84, but that it allows him to switch to NAD 83, so that there would be no need to convert.

Mr. Himmelheber said that Maryland has laws protecting gravesites. Anyone planning to remove a cemetery or grave must contact the State's Attorney and the Health Department.

Mr. Willard asked Ms. Chaney what happens in the event a parcel is subdivided. She replied that the record of the site would remain on the parcel on which it is located and removed from the subdivided parcels.

Ms. Chaney suggested that the HPC might want to keep a separate database in which to add notes and additional information about cemeteries. Mr. Himmelheber agreed that a separate database was a good idea, especially if in the future the HPC wants to send information to the statewide cemetery web site.

### **Update on the Historic Roads Survey**

Ms. Wilson presented the following update: Tom Reinhart of the Maryland Historical Trust and Kathryn Smith, principal investigator from History Matters, met with her on February 22 to discuss the roads that Ms. Wilson had identified in her preliminary survey. They also discussed the maps that will be used. MHT requires USGS maps for the survey and Ms. Smith will use historic maps to chart the location of older roads that may no longer be in use. Ms. Wilson took Mr. Reinhart and Ms. Smith out to the Seventh District to the Yellow Bank area. They traveled Bushwood Road, Bushwood Wharf Road, White's Neck Road, Gibson Road, Colton's Point Road, and Palmer Road. In the Leonardtown area, they looked at Cedar Lane.

Ms. Wilson wished that time had allowed her to take them to the south county; especially to Jesuit-held land that has not changed hands in hundreds of years.

Ms. Smith said that certain themes emerged from this introductory tour. One is the difference between the lowland coastal areas and the upland areas. She noted that themes similar to those used in the 1990s historic structures survey would be employed for the road survey. An example would be "Depression, Revival, and the Civil War Years".

Ms. Smith expects to be in the field by the end of March. Ms. Wilson is hoping to accompany her for some of the fieldwork and may request permission from the owners of Willow Glen and Bachelor's Hope to document their private farm roads. Ms. Smith is planning to develop a form to use for documenting the roads, and she will create a form that will display a cross section of each road.

### Discussion

Mr. Williamson asked what the product of the road survey would be and whether any regulations relating to historic roads would result. Ms. Wilson noted that in addition to the documentation of the roads, recommendations would be formulated either as a stand-alone ordinance, or as measures to be incorporated into the Zoning Ordinance. She noted that these recommendations would be presented at a public hearing for discussion before adoption.

Mr. Willard said that when he served on the Planning Commission, a plan to improve Mattapan Road was proposed. Because the road is one of the county's earliest, the Planning Commission recommended that no changes be made that would destroy the historic integrity of the road. Their advice was followed and the portion of Mattapan that joins Route 5 was not altered.

### **Items from the Floor**

Ms. Wilson reminded the HPC that the first Renovators Roundtable would be on February 27 with Joel Keels of KCI as the presenter. His topic will be Short Term Maintenance that Saves Long Term Money. On March 6, Neal Tracy will be the presenter and his topic will be Old House Facelift: Wood and Paint. All sessions will be at 7:00 p.m. in the Leonardtown Library. Ms. Wilson mentioned that she does not yet have a speaker for the masonry session, and she has a tentative commitment from Steve Gibson for the windows session. Ms. Hayden said that she would call Mr. Gibson, who is a relative, and encourage him to participate.

Mr. Williamson stated that he has copies of the *Old House Journal*, which contain valuable information on house restoration that he is willing to share. Mr. Himmelheber suggested that the *Historic Preservation Guidelines* be made available at the sessions.

Ms. Wilson said she would be sure they are and noted that she will have copies of the relevant National Park Service Bulletins at each session.

Mr. Tippett said that he had attended the HPC meeting because he was interested in what the Commission does. He stated that too many historic buildings and sites are disappearing. Mr. Himmelheber thanked him for attending and welcomed him to attend any time.

Mr. Himmelheber said that at the next meeting he would like the HPC to look over copies of the Maryland law pertaining to cemeteries.

**Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 5:15 p.m.

Submitted by: \_\_\_\_\_ Signed by: \_\_\_\_\_