

HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

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

Members Present: Peter Himmelheber, HPC Chairman
Hal Willard, Vice-Chairman
Robert Gibbs, Member
Mary Hayden, Member
Jack Williamson, Member
Teresa Wilson, LUGM Staff

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

Approval of Minutes: The minutes of the February 23, 2006 meeting were approved as corrected.

Renovators Roundtable

Mr. Himmelheber reported that the Renovators Roundtable programs have a small but dedicated audience. He noted that there have been some technical difficulties with the DVD. The library laptop has been challenging to get running. Despite these minor glitches, the programs have been well received. On March 20, there was no expert presenter to explain masonry. Ms. Wilson noted that Mr. Himmelheber more than made up for that by bringing examples of historic bricks including some from Resurrection Manor, as well as fresh lime mortar of the type being used to construct the chapel at St. Mary's City.

Update on Phase 8 Grant: Kirk Ranzetta's Book

Ms. Wilson explained that a second editor would be hired to complete the final work on Mr. Ranzetta's book about St. Mary's County architecture. Funds in the grant will have to be de-encumbered and re-encumbered by the LUGM fiscal secretary before the editor can start work.

Annual Historic Preservation Awards

The nomination forms for the Annual Historic Preservation Awards are now available on the county web page. Ms. Wilson also distributed copies to the public libraries. She asked the HPC members to spread the word. As in past years, the awards will be given out at a May County Commissioners meeting.

Last Chance Scenic Places

In 2005, Ms. Wilson submitted an application to Scenic Maryland nominating St. Mary's County as a Last Chance Scenic Place. She recently received word from Elizabeth Buxton, Executive Director of Scenic Maryland, that St. Mary's County had been selected along with seven other areas in the state. Scenic Maryland will make the announcement in Baltimore on April 20th and a press event will held in St. Mary's on April 21.

Maryland Cemetery Laws

Mr. Himmelheber distributed copies of a summary of Maryland's Laws respecting cemeteries to the HPC. A discussion followed during which it was noted that the state does have strong laws protecting cemeteries, but that local vigilance is the key to proper enforcement. The HPC also discussed creating a database separate from the Enterprise Database HTE system used for all county government that will track the cemeteries. The Enterprise Database HTE will notify Ms. Wilson of any activities on parcels containing cemeteries. The other database could include more details than on the cemeteries than could be entered in Enterprise Database HTE.

Items from the Floor

Ms. Wilson reminded the HPC that March 27th would be the final Renovators Roundtable. Steve Gibson of Steve's Cabinetry and Millwork will present the session on historic windows.

Submitted by: _____ Signed by: _____