

St. Mary's County, Maryland
HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

Minutes of the meeting held on March 26, 2009 at the
Department of Land Use and Growth Management

Present: Hal Willard, Chairman
Ruth Mitchell, Member
Rob Gibbs, Member
Victor Govier, Member
Mary Haden, Member
Susan Erichsen, Member, Excused

Grace Mary Brady, Staff
Jeff Jackman, Principal Planner

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 4:00 p.m. H. Willard conducted the roll call and established that a quorum was present. Commission requirements were read for the record.

Guests: Frank Tippet.

Agenda amended: To add introduction of new historic preservation planner staff.

Approval of Minutes: The minutes of the January 22, 2009 meeting were presented and reviewed.

Motion: To accept the minutes of January 22, 2009, as amended. Made by R. Mitchell, seconded by R. Gibbs. Motion passed unanimously.

Reports:

Graveyard project – report from R. Gibbs on cemetery project status in general. R. Mitchell, R. Gibbs and T. Wilson had worked on the cemetery project for the past 3 years. Mr. Gibbs commented on galleys of 1st chapters in Kirk Ranzetta's book – wanted to know if the county had an inventory of cemeteries. R. Mitchell felt that the inventory of cemeteries in the County needed to be flushed out and maps updated. Staff reported finding hand written lists, lists on Excel sheets and Access data base. R. Mitchell made recommendations on contents of database talking about church sites sharing the same site numbers as its cemetery.

Action Item: Staff to research possible cemetery site near Oak Crest site before April meeting.

Religious Freedom Byway – Jeff Jackman talked about project and asked that staff create a tickler file as he thought this project was being considered for National nomination.

Action Item: Staff to look up Kline (consultant who prepared the corridor management plan) web page to determine status of this project.

Discussion of possible inclusion of professionals from local historic sites - R. Gibbs talked about the upcoming vacancies on the HPC and suggested reaching out to the library, Historical Society, Historic St. Mary's City, Genealogical society, and museums. It was also suggested that staff generate a press release and pursue newspaper articles. R. Mitchell suggested staff put an e-mail together and then members could forward the information to anyone they wanted to. M. Hayden suggested that the members receive this information before the April meeting.

Action Item: Staff to distribute Membership Applications to HPC members before the April meeting.

Historic Preservation Awards 2009 Committee report - Mr. Gibbs volunteered to be on Awards Committee.

Action Item: Staff to prepare and distribute information on nominating a preservation project for an award before the April meeting.

Development – V. Govier asked if development was asking for funds. J. Jackman stated that development issues were brought before the Technical Evaluation Committee (TEC) once a month. The historic planner would have an opportunity to weigh in on projects at that time.

HPC 2010 Budget – Staff reported that \$3,215 had been requested in this year’s budget.

HPC 2008 Annual Report – Staff reported that the Annual Report was due no later than June 1, 2009.

Action Item: Staff to review last year’s minutes and prepare draft Annual Report for the April meeting.

Reports By Staff

1. Cemetery at Oak Crest: Staff had done some preliminary investigation into the cemetery site believed to exist at Oak Crest and determined that it was a private family cemetery.

Action Item: Staff to finish research and get documentation to R. Gibbs before April meeting.

2. April is Archeology month: Staff talked about archeology month. R. Mitchell suggested that the Board of County Commissioners receive brochures, calendar of events and other items from Historic St. Mary’s City.

Action Item: Staff to prepare green sheet, write proclamation and assist with April 7th appearance before the Board of County Commissioners.

3. CLG Annual Report: Staff reported that the CLG Annual Report was due August 31, 2009.

4. HPC Budget: R. Mitchell asked additional questions about the HPC budget. Staff reported that it was still in flux and that final decisions had not yet been voted on by the Board of County Commissioners.

5. Barn local nomination: Staff reported that she had written a consent letter which all 5 County Commissioners had signed. This letter supported Preservation Maryland request for a \$50,000 grant for a book to document barns in Anne Arundel, Calvert, Charles, Prince George’s and St. Mary’s Counties.

6. Barn National Register of Historic Placed Multiple Property Documentation: Staff reported that she was meeting with the architectural historians from TEC, Inc. to be present during the documentation of the 2 barn sites in St. Mary’s County; one known as the De la Brooke barn, the other known as the Bond/Simms barn at Greenwell State Park. R. Gibbs expressed an interest in being present. Staff will contact R. Gibbs when both barns are scheduled for review.

7. I’m Goin Down County: Staff talked about Kirk Ranzetta’s book and lost opportunities of having it finished in time for the 375th Anniversary. J. Jackman recommended that staff contact him again and try to expedite the completion of this project. R. Gibbs noted that there were two pages number 59. Staff noted that the web page needed to be updated –that it said Kirk’s book was coming in 2004.

8. Historic Roads: Staff reported that there was no financial support in the form of a matching grant to complete the Historic Roads project at this time.

9. HPC materials on the web: Staff reported that minutes and agendas had been posted from last July, 2008 to January, 2009.

10. Preservation Maryland: Staff asked who would like to attend the Preservation Conference in May. Staff also noted that the Conference was scheduled for one of the days the HPC met. Mr. Willard expressed interest in attending. Other HPC members were to contact staff if interested in participating.

11. Commission Assistance and Mentoring Program (CAMP): Staff handed out information about a CAMP event training in Annapolis on June 20th. Staff also discussed a History channel program grant which was due by June 10th. 10 awards up to \$10,000 each were considered for community youth who inspired youth to become involved in preservation.

12. Tax credits: Staff reported that Roz Racanello, Executive Director of the Southern Maryland Heritage Area Consortium, would be willing to set up a workshop to talk about rehabilitation tax credits and its potential benefits to preservationists and developers.

Old Business: Election of Officers. R. Mitchell nominated Rob Gibbs as Chair, effective the April meeting, which passed unanimously. H. Willard noted that the effective date should have been January, 2009. R. Gibbs nominated Mary Hayden as Vice-Chair, effective the April meeting, which passed unanimously.

New Business: Items from the floor: R. Gibbs brought to the attention of the HPC a property located in Chaptico/Swann that could be considered for the Historic Register of Maryland.

Action Item: Staff to look up the St. Michael's file to determine process used when that site was nominated to Historic Register of Maryland. J. Jackman talked about possibility of waiver by Planning Commission, which helps expedite the process. J. Jackman also said that he would put it on the hearings calendar so that staff could get geared up for it. Staff to provide information to R. Gibbs before April meeting.

Items from the floor: H. Willard asked the Committee to authorize staff to use the remaining \$150 at its discretion. Unanimous support expressed for staff to use the remaining \$150 in this year's budget.

Announcements – None

Adjournment - Motion by R. Mitchell, seconded by R. Gibbs, which passed unanimously.

Submitted By: Grace Mary Brady

Signed by: _____
Harold "Hal" Willard, Chair

Date: _____