

St. Mary's County, Maryland
HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

Minutes of the meeting held on August 27, 2009 at the
Department of Land Use and Growth Management

Present: Rob Gibbs, Chair
Susan Erichsen, Member
Victor Govier, Member
Scott Lawrence, Member
Carol Moody, Member
Hal Willard, Member

Grace Mary Brady, Staff

Ruth Mitchell, Excused Absence

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 4:00 p.m. Mr. Gibbs called roll and confirmed that a quorum was present. Commission requirements were read for the record.

Guests: Derick Berlage, Director of Land Use and Growth Management (LUGM); Frank Tippett and Peter Himmelheber.

Agenda: Motion by Susan Erichsen, second by Scott Lawrence to accept the agenda as presented. Motion passed unanimously.

Approval of Minutes: Motion by Susan Erichsen, second by Carol Moody to approve the minutes of July 23, 2009 as amended. Motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Derick Berlage, Director of Land Use and Growth Management, asked the Committee members for a few minutes of their time. He was introduced to each member of the Commission. He then introduced himself to the Commission and talked about his commitment to preservation. He also offered to give a presentation of a power point show he had created at one of their meetings.

Reports:

Graveyard project – no report.

Staff Reports:

1. Demolition Requests: 4 carried-over from previous month & 3 additional requests.

- 1) 1800 house, 20260 Poplar Ridge Road, Lexington Park. Part of previous month TEC application – applicant brought back revised site plan requesting demolition. Ms. Brady thanked Mr. Himmelheber for providing the background research on this property. The new owners appreciated his work.
- 2) 1900 house, 18758 St. Jerome's Neck Road, Dameron. Demo & replace with new home.
- 3) 1951 house, 44826 Three Coves Road, Hollywood. Demo – larger house proposed.
- 4) 1935 house (older), 23035 Brown Road, Leonardtown. Demo - replacement home proposed. Family conveyance.
- 5) 1920 house, 23960 Budd's Creek, Clements. Demo - replacement home proposed. Family conveyance.
- 6) 1950 house, 37637 Louis Bailey Road, Colton's Point. Demo – larger house proposed.
- 7) Park Place, Three Notch Road, antique place not documented. Brick house documented. Staff reported that the owner had tried to give the historic home away to anyone who would pay to move it. No one wanted it.

Ms. Brady informed the Committee that St. Elizabeth's Manor, St. Jerome's Neck Road, Dameron was advertised for sale. This property had never been included on the inventory of historic sites and she was going to contact the real estate agent to see if the current owner would allow the house, cemetery, slave quarters and stables to be documented. She also advised the Committee that the old Adams House on St. George's Island was for sale; that two parties had requested packets of the historical write-ups on this property. Ms. Brady also went to the site and photographed the exterior of the home.

2. Technical Evaluation Committee: August

Six sites were reviewed – two required historic consideration.

1) 1948 structure, 20475 Point Lookout Road – no impact to house – continue to use it as a rental. Applicant proposes constructing material equipment storage shed.

2) Someone thought there was an old house located at 24045 Pin Cushion Road, Leonardtown. Staff researched old aerials and determined that the house had been demolished years ago.

3. Religious Freedom Byway Management Plan: Staff handed out copies of the job description currently being advertised by the Charles County Human Resource Department.

4. I'm Goin Down County: Staff reported that she had sent a letter to Nicole Diehlmann, Maryland Historic Trust, in an effort to get the Counties photographs returned and assure delivery of book chapters as promised by Mr. Ranzetta.

5. Cemeteries. No report.

6. Parlette Farm: Staff reported that no additional meetings had been scheduled at this time.

7. Clocker's Fancy & Historic St. Mary's City. Staff indicated that Ms. Mitchell needed to know how many of the members and guests were planning on attending the visit to Historic St. Mary's City and Clocker's Fancy in lieu of the September meeting. Most of the members indicated attendance, but would verify their availability with staff.

Old Business:

1. Mr. Gibbs discussed the role of the commission; possible amendments to by-laws and working to establish historic districts in St. Mary's County. Ms. Erichsen felt that a first order of business should include reviewing the by-laws. There was a lot of discussion about the by-laws and the committee decided to add review of the By-Laws as an Agenda item for November 19th meeting. Staff was asked to provide a signed copy of the current by-laws as there had previously been several different versions of by-laws. Staff was also asked to provide a copy of the resolution adopting the By-Laws. Staff suggested that the Deputy County Attorney be asked if he could attend the meeting about By-Laws. Commission members concurred.

Mr. Gibbs talked about the educational/certification component of the Committee as a whole. He talked about various classes that could be taken and other ways of keeping the Commission's certification up to date. He talked about Commission members' presence at the preservation conference scheduled for 2010. There was general discussion amongst members about the value of some of the classes and conference participation.

New Business:

1) St. George's Historic Marker. Mr. Govier brought the St. George's Historic Marker to the attention of the board. Several citizens had informed him that they felt the historic marker was not correct – that it should read ST. GEORGE ISLAND. They had asked that it be corrected before the anniversary of the War of 1812. Mr. Himmelheber informed the Committee that he had, in fact, done the research on the original land patents and that the reference to St. George's Island was correct. He offered to get the information to

staff who would distribute it to the Board of County Commissioners and Committee members. The Commission thanked Mr. Govier for his efforts.

2) Historic Preservation Awards. Staff reviewed possible dates with Committee members to determine their availability for award presentations. Ms. Erichsen offered to arrange for a tour of the chapel at Historic St. Mary's City and lunch for the priests traveling from Baltimore. Mr. Gibbs and Mr. Govier will be out of town for the September 29, 2009 presentation. Ms. Moody agreed to represent the Commission on September 29th, the date established for the awards to the Maryland Province of the Society of Jesus. Two other dates were confirmed by HPC members for presentations to other awardees on October 13 and October 20. The Commission decided that Cecil's Mill and St. Peter's Chapel would be scheduled for October 13, 2009. The awards for Christmas in April and Mr. David Roberts were scheduled for October 20, 2009. Staff to prepare appointment request sheets for the Board of County Commissioners.

3) County Fair: Staff asked for volunteers to staff the Tourism/Historic Preservation booth at the county fair. Mr. Gibbs offered to work Thursday from 4 to 6 pm.; Carol Moody offered to work Saturday from opening until 4 p.m.; and Susan Erichsen offered to work all day on Sunday. Mr. Gibbs handed out a copy of the HPC Calendar of Events, which listed Commission activities through January 28, 2010.

4) Election of vice-chair position: Mr. Gibbs suggested that Ms. Moody consider the position of vice-chair. Ms. Moody declined at this time. Mr. Gibbs asked if there were any nominations from the floor. Hearing none, Ms. Erichsen volunteered to be vice-chair. Hal Willard moved that Susan Erichsen serve as Vice-Chair to the Historic Preservation Commission. The motion was seconded by Carol Moody and passed unanimously. General discussion ensued about elections in general and the Commission was reminded that elections of new officers should occur at the December, 2009 meeting.

5) HPC letterhead: Ms. Mitchell has sent an e-mail to Chairman Gibbs and staff indicating a concern about listing each member's credentials under their name on the letterhead, as some of the members had retired from some of these positions. Discussion amongst Commission members indicated a willingness to leave the credentials under the various members' names. Other concerns were expressed about the cost of printing letterhead. Staff said that the letterhead was generated on her computer and new members could be added and/or removed easily. There were no printing costs incurred. Mr. Willard moved to approve the HPC letterhead with credentials listed under each members name as presented. Ms. Moody seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Items from the floor

Ms. Mitchell asked staff to verify the visit to Historic St. Mary's City and Clocker's Fancy on September 24, 2009. Each Board member indicated their eagerness to participate. Staff agreed to work with Ms. Mitchell and provide members with details about the outing.

Announcements – None

Adjournment - Motion by Susan Erichsen, seconded by Victor Govier, which passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 6:00 p.m.

Submitted By: Grace Mary Brady

Signed by: _____
Robert Gibbs, Chair

Date: _____