

HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

Minutes of the meeting held on September 27, 2007 at the Department of Land Use and Growth Management

Present: Hal Willard, Chairman
Jim Grusholt, Vice-Chairman
Susan Erichsen, Member
Bill Farrar, Member
Rob Gibbs, Member
Mary Hayden, Member
Ruth Mitchell, Member
Teresa Wilson, LUGM Staff
Peter Himmelheber, Emeritus Chairman/Member

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

Approval of Minutes: The minutes of the August 23, 2007 meeting were approved as submitted.

Cemetery Project Next Steps

Ms. Wilson said that she is continuing to look for the Tax Map, Block, and Parcel numbers for the cemeteries on the database developed from the Janet Tice book. She will then see that the information is entered into the county's HTE system. Any permitting activity on these parcels will pop up, allowing us to contact the applicant to remind them of State Laws governing treatment of cemeteries.

Mr. Gibbs mentioned that he had sent out a notice about the HPC's project to the St. Mary's County Genealogical Society, but received no response. The reason is that members of this group are more interested in researching the names of those buried in cemeteries. He also noted that some veterans groups are conducting cemetery surveys, but also focused on finding names of the interred.

Mr. Gibbs stated that he thinks that the endangered cemeteries—those that are abandoned and overgrown are the ones the HPC needs to focus on.

Ms. Mitchell noted that having references in the database indicating which books reference the cemeteries is very important. She said that the locations can be determined using the county online maps for some of the cemeteries.

Mr. Willard agreed but said that some of the county maps are not at a resolution high enough to find cemeteries by this method.

Susan Erichsen asked if there were any assumptions that could be made about where potential grave sites may be located. Ms. Mitchell stated that from an archaeological perspective, no assumptions can be made "by sight" and that only ground penetrating radar can positively locate cemeteries and graves.

Planning for October 25 Public Program

Through Ms. Mitchell's efforts archaeologists Don Creveling and Jennifer Stabler will present a program about how archeology is integrated into Prince George's County land use planning. Ms. Wilson has reserved the Leonardtown High School Auditorium and reserved a projector and laptop from the county IT department for the presenters. She has been assured that a table will be available for refreshments and that there will be a table in the auditorium for the projector. Technical details of the presentation --compatibility of their presentation with our equipment—are being checked on. Both are experienced public speakers.

County Fair Report

Ms. Wilson spent three hours at the fair on Sunday. The public service announcement recorded by Amy Carter featuring Bill Farrar and an interview with Local Historic Landmark owners Joe and Nancy Dick played without a glitch on the laptop. More than fifty copies of the Design Guidelines were distributed.

Items from the Floor

Ms. Wilson distributed a flier about three meetings to be held by Maryland State Highways to hear from citizens about transportation needs.

Mr. Himmelheber noted that Reeder family members had visited their family cemetery this month to clear brush and tidy up.

Ms. Wilson reminded the members that the public service announcement featuring Bill Farrar and Joe and Nancy Dick will air on Channel 95 beginning in October. Members may also borrow the CD.

Other Items: The next meeting of the Religious Freedom Byway Advisory Committee will be October 23, 2007 at Smallwood State Park in Charles County from 10:30 to 12:30.

The Phase 8 book grant was not rolled into the current fiscal year and will have to be rebid.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 5:30 p.m.

Submitted by: _____ Signed by: _____