

HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

Minutes of the meeting held on November 17, 2005 at the Department of Land Use and Growth Management

Members Present: Peter Himmelheber, Chairman
Harold Willard, Vice-Chairman
Robert Gibbs, Member
James Grusholt, Member
Mary Hayden, Member
Margaret McCoy Padukiewicz, 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 October 27, 2005 meeting were approved as corrected.

Renovators Roundtable at the Leonardtown Library

Ms. Wilson reported that the following dates in 2006 have been reserved at the Leonardtown Library for the Renovators Roundtable program: February 27, March 6, March 20, and March 27. Set up time will be 6:30 p.m. and the program will begin at 7:00 p.m. Finding experts willing to lead the discussion after the film segments will be the next challenge. Ms. Wilson said she would contact previous presenters and appealed to HPC members for names of possible discussion leaders. Mr. Himmelheber and Ms. Padukiewicz suggested Neil Tracy who has worked at Sotterley and Ellenborough. Mr. Himmelheber also suggested contacting Ms. Becky McDonald of Ellenborough to ask if she might be willing to provide the homeowner's perspective on restoration. Ms. Padukiewicz also suggested that persons involved with church restorations around the county might have some insights. Ms. Wilson said that she will follow up on the members' suggestions and asked them to send her phone numbers if possible.

The possibility of presenting the Renovators program at the Charlotte Hall and Lexington Park Libraries was discussed with the months June and August suggested. The members opted to wait until the response to the Leonardtown program can be gauged. Mr. Gibbs asked if written materials would be available for people attending the presentations. Ms. Wilson said that she would provide helpful handouts at each of the presentations. Ms. Padukiewicz stressed that the programs would be more likely to attract people if speakers were featured, especially local people who have been involved in restoration work.

Historic Roads Survey Grant Update

Ms. Wilson informed the HPC that although the signed grant was sent to the Procurement Office on August 29 or 30th, no action was taken to bid out the survey work. She and the department secretary called in September and October asking when the survey work would be bid out. The Maryland Historical Trust, which had expected to see bids in the early fall, called Ms. Wilson and informed her that the county would lose the grant money if it did not have a contract with a qualified historic surveyor by November 30th.

Since it was now too late for a bidding process, MHT provided Ms. Wilson with the names of two qualified surveyors. History Matters of Washington, D.C. has agreed to take on the survey. A reduced scope of work was developed, since because of the delay two months were lost. As soon as the final procedures are completed in the Procurement Office, the contract will go out by November 30th and the surveyor will begin work December 1st.

Work Plan for Locating Cemeteries

Mr. Himmelheber suggested that the establishment of a work plan for recording cemeteries begin in January of 2006. Mr. Willard said that an article or other publicity to get the issue before the public would be a good idea because citizens could provide information about family cemeteries, which may yet be undocumented. The membership agreed that public outreach should be one of the first items on the work plan. Mr. Gibbs mentioned that area churches should also be contacted as a source. Mr. Himmelheber agreed and reminded the HPC that Janet Tice's book on St. Mary's County cemeteries would be a significant source. Upon further discussion, it was agreed that taking one election district at a time would be the most manageable approach to a cemetery survey. Ms. Wilson said that information collected on the location of cemeteries could be attached as notes in the county HTE tracking system for property, and

when any activity is initiated on that property, the note would pop up alerting the planning office and her that a cemetery is located on the parcel.

Items from the Floor

Ms. Wilson reported on her presentation to the board of the United Committee for Afro-American Contributions on November 10, 2005. She presented the board with the possible next steps that would need to happen if they wished to explore restoration of the St. Inigoes African American School. She offered to share contact information she had obtained at the Annual African American Historic Preservation Conference in Easton October 22. The board thanked her for her presentation and one member suggested that UCAC might be interested in a modest approach to remembering the school, perhaps with signage at the school location explaining the school's role in the education of African American children during the years of segregation.

Mr. Himmelheber distributed CDs of the presentation he made to the Chamber of Commerce in Charlotte Hall on October 11, 2005. Members are free to use it and suggest additions etc. for future presentations. He also shared a recent *Washington Post* article about Willow Glen Farm in Virginia. The owner's will called for the demolition of the historic house and farm buildings, but local preservationists are trying to prevent it.

Ms. Wilson reminded the HPC that the next meeting would be December 15, 2005. She informed the HPC that the Annual Report is ready for presentation to the County Commissioners either at their regular Tuesday meeting or via memo from the HPC sent with copies of the report. The HPC opted to send the report this year.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 5:07 p.m.

Submitted by: _____ Signed by: _____