

St. Mary's County, Maryland
HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION
Minutes of the meeting held on
March 24, 2011

Present: Carol Moody, Chair
Scott Lawrence, Vice-Chair
George Donely, Member
Susan Erichsen, Member
Robert Gibbs, Member
Ruth Mitchell, Member
Hal Willard, Member
Grace Mary Brady, Staff

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

Recognition of Guests: Derick Berlage, Director of Land Use and Growth Management

Approval of Agenda: Motion by Mr. Willard, seconded by Mr. Lawrence to add an item from the Floor: Schedule Archaeology Ordinance sub-committee meeting. Motion by Mr. Willard, seconded by Mr. Lawrence to approve the Agenda as amended. Motion passed unanimously.

Approval of Minutes: Motion by Ms. Erichsen, seconded by Mr. Willard to approve the February 24, 2011 minutes. Motion passed unanimously. Motion by Ms. Mitchell, seconded by Mr. Gibbs to approve the January 27, 2011 minutes. Motion passed unanimously.

Reports: Historic Preservation (Grace Mary Brady, Historic Preservation Planner II)

- **Note: Derick Berlage, Director of Land Use and Growth Management, entered the meeting during staff report. Mr. Berlage was introduced by staff to all the HPC members and stayed for the entire meeting.**
- Meril Erichsen started her internship. She is currently enrolled in William and Mary and has a semester break. She is transcribing oral histories, working with me on the MD Big Tree Program and helping with the oystermen project.
- Met with Rev. Gregory Fyler and church historian to discuss possibility of historic district zoning map overlay for church and cemetery.
- Handled 2 Demo's.
- Handled 22 customer service requests.
- Reviewed TEC comments – 2 historic homes (1890 & 1900).
- Attended African American Grant Workshop at CMM.
- Sheriff Book – 375 Anniversary – meeting on March 1st and March 22nd
- War of 1812 – reviewed final version of SO MD joint tourism map and brochure; reviewed and commented on first 150 interpretive and way-finding sign proposal.
- CSM Share your History Event on March 12th. (photography, archival work & refreshment)
- Started the SMC Watermen project with Ken Hoffman and Amy Plummer. Taped Mr. John Richard Knott (oysterman) and taped oyster sanctuary opening.
- Continue to promote county book, sales are slow – 21 books sold this month.
- Preserve America Event held at Lexington Park Library featuring Notley Hall.
- Hosted foresters from Cecil County on March 18th for the MD Big Tree Program; I had discovered 3 new trees; added to the SMC Big Tree Program; re-measured other trees (8 trees verified that day)
- Meeting with Carolyn Laray, Phil Rollins concerning the LP monument and a possible African American grant application.
- Maryland Day at St. Clement's Island on March 25th.

Old Business:

1) Cemetery sub-committee update by Rob Gibbs

Mr. Gibbs reported that notebooks were out in four different locations (local libraries and historical society); he expressed disappointment that the sub-committee had not received the input it had hoped for.

A decision was made to schedule a cemetery sub-committee meeting before the next HPC regular meeting.

Mr. Gibbs also told staff that the Burch Hanger on Baptist Church Road in Mechanicsville was for sale. Staff agreed to investigate to see how old the hanger was.

2) CSM – Share your History Event

Ms. Moody reported that the ‘Share your History’ event was a big success. She said that more than 70 people and 22 organizations had participated that day.

3) Preservation Conference on May 19 and 20 in Annapolis.

Ms. Brady asked for a head count of those members interested in participating in the conference. She reminded everyone that attendance at this conference fulfilled commission educational requirements for one year. Ms. Mitchell, Mr. Donely, Ms. Moody and staff expressed an interest in attending the conference. Staff said that she would submit travel/training request to the County Administrator’s office.

New Business:

1) 2011 Preservation Awards

Ms. Brady stated that the deadline to receive nominations was March 31st and handed the HPC members a list of the nominations that had been received so far.

2) 2010 Annual Report

Motion by Mr. Lawrence, seconded by Ms. Erichsen to approve the Annual Report as submitted. Motion passed unanimously.

3) Welcome new member – George Donely

Mr. Donely told the members that he was thrilled to be part of this commission. He talked about his love and passion for old homes and said that he and his wife had purchased one of St. Mary’s Counties historic homes, known as St. Richard’s Manor in Esperanza.

4) Upcoming Vacancies (member & alternate) on HPC June, 2011

Staff reported that she had spoken with Ms. Cannavo, the Administrative Assistance in the County Administrator’s office, and that Ms. Cannavo said that there would not be a deadline for board and commission applications this year. Staff said that she would prepare copies of everyone who had applied to be appointed to the Historic Preservation Commission for the next meeting, but that the BOCC would be considering applications up to the date of the meeting for appointments to boards and commissions.

Mr. Lawrence said that he had asked a friend of his to join.

Several HPC members asked how they would have an opportunity for input. Staff said that if additional applications were received between the meeting and the scheduling of the BOCC to make appointments to boards and commissions, she would send that information to each member electronically.

Items from the floor – Schedule Archaeology Ordinance sub-committee meeting.

Ms. Mitchell spoke about the importance of archaeology and how the HPC could garner support for a future ordinance. She talked about the Southern Maryland Chapter (ASM) and explained to the group what its mission was. She felt that this group could help support an Archaeology Ordinance by garnering public awareness.

It was decided that the Archaeology Ordinance sub-committee would meet before the next HPC meeting on April 28, 2011.

Announcements – None

Adjournment – Motion by Mr. Lawrence, seconded by Ms. Mitchell to adjourn the meeting, which passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 5:10 p.m.

Submitted By: Grace Mary Brady

Signed by: _____
Carol Moody, Chair

Date: April 28, 2011