

**St. Mary's County, Maryland**  
**HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION**  
Minutes of the meeting held on  
November 17, 2011

**Present:** Carol Moody, Chair  
George Donely, Member  
Rob Gibbs, Member  
Mary Farrar, Member  
Scott Lawrence, Member  
Ruth Mitchell, Member  
Mike Smolek, Member  
Grace Mary Brady, Staff

**Call to Order:** The regularly scheduled meeting of the HPC was called to order at 3:30 p.m.

**Recognition of Guests:** Sue Kullen representing U. S. Senator Ben Cardin; Commissioner Daniel L. Morris; Phil Shire, Acting Deputy Director of Land Use and Growth Management; Phil Rollins, Director of Recreation and Parks; Bob Schaller, Director of Economic Development; Helen Dorsey; Mr. and Mrs. Dale Springer; Jim Gibb; Kathy Bailey; Susan Wolfe; Linda Reno; Father Brian Sanderfoot; Bob Bowles; Tom Unkle; Frankie Tippett.

**Approval of Agenda:** Motion by Mr. Lawrence, seconded by Mr. Smolek to approve the Agenda as submitted. Motion passed unanimously.

**Approval of Minutes:** Motion by Ms. Mitchell, seconded by Ms. Farrar to approve the October 27, 2011 minutes as presented. Motion passed unanimously.

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

- Handled 52 customer service requests.
- One demolition request.
- TEC meeting had 7 items, no historic issues.
- Sheriff Book work continues with Linda Reno, Tyler Mattingly, Cindy Allen and myself. 12 additional Sheriff Commissions were verified.
- Joe Norris delivered draft of first two illustrations for the War of 1812 pamphlet. One depicted the mass exodus from St. George's Island when the British invaded and the other is an illustration of the British using Christ Episcopal Church in Chaptico for a stable and encampment.
- Sent information to Jennifer Keats Curtis, Editor at Large for Maryland Life Magazine for background on the Dameron House for the 2012 Most Endangered List.
- Meetings continue with Dr. Gordon Blackistone Hughes and Mrs. Myra Hughes, owners of River Springs, relative to the War of 1812 and Civil War. Carol Moody, Linda Reno and Tyler Mattingly (intern) evaluating collections and scanning information.
- Prepared flyer for upcoming Lecture featuring Dr. Riordan, Ruth Mitchell and Scott Lawrence, scheduled for December 6<sup>th</sup>.
- War of 1812 Committee met with Sue Kullen, representative for U. S. Senator Ben Cardin. The National Park Service sent its final version of the Comprehensive Plan for the webinar held on November 16<sup>th</sup>. More than 500 pages to read and comment on before December 2<sup>nd</sup>.
- Attended the quarterly Southern Maryland Small Museum Association Meetings at the Calvert Marine Museum on November 7<sup>th</sup>.
- Met with Senator Roy Dyson and Father Brian Sanderfoot on November 14<sup>th</sup>.
- Met with Sue Kullen (representing Senator Ben Cardin) and Father Sanderfoot for a tour of Newtowne Neck on November 17<sup>th</sup>.
- Staffed the HPC meeting on November 17<sup>th</sup>.

## **Old Business:**

1) HPC Lecture Series – Ruth Mitchell & Scott Lawrence, December 6, 2011

Ms. Brady passed out flyers for all the members and guests to distribute promoting the lecture on December 6<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Gibbs reported that he had made arrangements with the Charlotte Hall Library to use its equipment. He also said if the lecture ran later than 8 p.m. the speakers would not be interrupted.

## **New Business:**

Newtowne Neck –

Sue Kullen, representative from Senator Ben Cardin’s office was introduced to members of the Historic Preservation Commission and its guests. There was more than one hour of discussion and questions posed about the future development of Newtowne Neck State Park. These are the highlights:

- \* Mr. Rollins stated that the Federal funding came from the Land and Water Conservation Fund.
- \* Ms. Dorsey stated that the landscape architect position at the Maryland State Parks had been filled and one of the requirements of this new position would be outlining the Critical Areas, Environmentally Sensitive Areas and that there would be a public hearing process.
- \* Mr. Gibb requested that the Historic Preservation Commission and St. Francis Xavier Church be included in the Section 107 process.
- \* It was suggested that a “Friends of Newtowne Neck” group be formed. Questions were raised about the stability of the Manor House. Father Sanderfoot said that the manor was ‘water tight’ and had been stabilized as much as possible.
- \* Mr. Rollins said that Phase One would be a Planning Phase and Ms. Mitchell and others asked how they could be included in this review.
- \* Mr. Smolek, Mr. Robert Gibbs, Mr. Jim Gibb, Mr. Lawrence, Ms. Farrar, Ms. Mitchell talked at great length about the archaeology resources already on site and the need for designation of additional resources; that of the 40+ recorded sites, 5 contributed directly to the Jesuit Mission from colonization.
- \* Everyone stressed the fact that this property has untouched landscape and that cultural and environmental impact also had to be part of the process.
- \* County Commission Morris expressed concern over loss of archaeology resources stating, “that once they are gone, they are gone forever”. He supports the idea of having a group of concerned professionals and citizens involved in the development process of Newtowne Neck.
- \* Mr. Smolek stated that some of the sites on the property were eligible for the National Register. He also stated that some of the land would be ideal for a historic district.
- \* There was a lot of discussion about the planting of the trees possibly in response to Governor O’Malley’s million tree initiative; talked about damage to the vistas of a waterfront property by the planting of so many trees.
- \* A common theme throughout all of the discussion was that no one wanted Newtowne Neck to become another Point Lookout State Park.
- \* St. Francis Xavier Church, Newtowne Manor House and cemetery were considered vulnerable to vandalism. There was discussion about how parishioners would be able to get to their church.
- \* Commissioner Morris asked that this group write a letter to the Board of County Commissioners sharing its concerns about the future development of Newtowne Neck State Park. He asked Ms. Brady to prepare a consent letter to accommodate the letter prepared by the Historic Preservation Commission members and friends in attendance. Mr. Smolek and Ms. Mitchell agreed to write the technical letter with Ms. Brady preparing a consent letter directed to the Department of Natural Resources from the St. Mary’s County Commissioners, attaching the fact sheet prepared by the archaeologists.

**Items from the floor:** Frankie Tippett said that he thought Newtowne Neck had been a port of entry at one time and that a village existed there. Ms. Mitchell thought he was talking about Society Hill.

**Announcements:** Bob Bowles, reminded everyone about the bazaar at St. Francis Xavier Church on Saturday, November 19, 2011.

**Adjournment:** Motion made by Ms. Mitchell, seconded by Mr. Lawrence to adjourn the meeting, which passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 5:30 p.m.

Submitted By: Grace Mary Brady

Signed by: \_\_\_\_\_  
Carol Moody, Chair

Date: Approved on December 15, 2011