

**St. Mary's County, Maryland
HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION**

Minutes of the meeting held on
November 18, 2010

Present: Rob Gibbs, Chair
Carol Moody, Vice-Chair
Ruth Mitchell, Member
Scott Lawrence, Member
Hal Willard, Member
Susan Erichsen left @ 5 p.m.

Grace Mary Brady, Staff

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

*** New Business Agenda Item taken out of order.**

Genie Posnett appeared in 17th century costume dressed as Anne Calvert, wife of Philip Calvert. Below is Genie Posnett, as Anne Wolseley Calvert, standing beside the recreated figure of Captain Bartholomew Gosnold of Virginia.



Ms. Posnett talked about the challenges in creating period costumes for museum figures based on skeletal excavations. Ms Posnett used artist Theodor de Bry's engravings, and books like Janet Arnold's *Pattern of Fashion* and Norah Waugh's *The Cut of Women's Clothes*, as well as the Victoria and Albert Museum collection and her vast experience in creating costumes for Historic St. Mary's City interpreters to create her costume. While the reconstruction of the figures was accomplished in Brooklyn, the clothing was constructed in St Mary's County; the complete exhibit resides at the Smithsonian in Washington, D.C.

Genie spoke of the steps involved in the Brooklyn studio's facial reconstruction of Anne Calvert, developed from a model by forensic artist Sharon A. Long. Sharon utilized the archaeological drawings

and images prepared by Don Winter and the research of Henry Miller (director of research) and Silas Hurry (curator of collections). This facial reconstruction is in the exhibit, and is open until February 2013.

There was a lot of enthusiasm during this presentation and Ms. Posnett answered questions from the audience when she was finished.

Roll call and confirmation of quorum: Mr. Gibbs called roll and confirmed that a quorum was present.

Commission requirements read for the record: Commission requirements were read for the record by Mr. Gibbs.

Recognition of Guests: Frank Tippett, Genie Posnett, Yvonne Chaillet, Brandy Glenn, Susie McCauley.

Approval of Agenda: Motion by Mr. Willard, seconded by Ms. Moody to accept the Agenda as presented. Motion passed unanimously.

Approval of Minutes: Motion by Ms. Erichsen, seconded by Mr. Lawrence to defer the October 28, 2010 minutes until the December meeting. Motion passed unanimously.

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

- Handled 18 customer service requests.
- Documented 1 demo request.
- Reviewed TEC comments – no historic sites under consideration.
- Still marketing County Book (I'm Goin Down County, An Architectural Journey through St. Mary's County) Getting ready to spend several weeks in December promoting the book.
- Religious Freedom Scenic Byway stakeholders meetings for St. Mary's County (November 18th). Calvin prepared comprehensive map depicting all recreational sites in Charles & St. Mary's county. Will spend 2 days with Jennifer Pitts in December to visit each site on byway.
- Cemetery public presentation at LP library with HPC –very well attended 63 participants. Followed up with investigations of cemetery sites (7 contacts – Carol Moody and I followed up on 2; HPC cemetery subcommittee followed up on other contacts).
- Star Spangled Banner public meeting in Benedict – 78 participants – represented War of 1812 committee.

Staff handed out a copy of a power point presentation entitled "HISTORIC PROPERTIES IN SOUTHERN MARYLAND, Information and Strategies that Realtors & Buyers can use that was going to be presented at the Southern Maryland Association of Realtors meeting on November 19, 2010.

Staff provided copies of "20 YEARS AND COUNTING, James Pepper Henry's Multifaceted View of NAGPRA from the November-December, 2010 Museum magazine. NAGPRA is the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act.

Staff provided copies of an Invitation from the Lower Potomac Tributary Team to its meeting on Monday, November 22, 2010 from 5:30 to 7 p.m. at the Charlotte Hall Veterans Home. Dr. Julia King was the guest speaker talking about the Archeology of the Potomac Region.

Staff provided copies of Teri Wilson's notes on possible cemetery locations in St. Mary's County.

Old Business:

- 1) Update on feedback from November 1, 2010 public presentation on St. Mary's County Burial Grounds at the Lexington Park Library.

Commission members talked about what a great turnout there was for their first public presentation on the importance of cemeteries in St. Mary's County. Everyone complimented Ms. Mitchell and Mr. Lawrence on their presentations. Mr. Gibbs, Mr. Lawrence and Ms. Mitchell had already talked with several citizens who had called in to report the whereabouts of private cemeteries. Mr. Gibbs, Mr. Lawrence, Ms. Mitchell, Dr. Riordan and archaeological students from Historic St. Mary's City visited one of the reported sites and spent several hours locating several lost grave sites. Ms. Moody and staff visited two sites, one of which had already been documented. The other site had not been documented.

There was consensus among commission members to host a second public presentation in the Leonardtown area sometime in late January or February, 2011. Staff would investigate places where this presentation could be held to see what would be available and if there would be a cost.

2) Discussion on request from Dr. Julia King.

Carol Moody asked commission members to discuss the letter sent by Dr. Julia King on October 24th citing possible archaeological survey work. Dr. King's project, if funded, would look for some sites that remain unknown, such as Governor Notley's home, the Choptico Indian town and John Coode's house. Ms. Moody asked Commission members if they would be agreeable to a public presentation, which everyone was in favor of. Staff offered to request an opinion from the Deputy County Attorney, David Weiskopf, as to whether the Historic Preservation Commission was allowed to raise funds through a non-profit to support a project like this one. Staff said that she would put their request in writing. Commission members asked that this project be placed on December's Agenda for Action.

3) Follow up on Jim Gibb Archaeological Ordinance Recommendations.

Mr. Gibbs asked the Commission to make a decision at the December meeting on whether or not it would like to pursue an Archaeological Ordinance with the County. Ms. Mitchell explained what a Phase I and a Phase II archaeological survey entailed. Mr. Gibbs said that he would follow up with an outline of what the Commission should consider supporting at the December meeting. Staff said that she would put the Item on the Agenda for Action.

New Business:

1) Presentation by Genie Posnett on 'Dressing the Bones'.

Minutes on Ms. Posnett's presentation reflected above.

2) Election of new Historic Preservation Commission member.

Staff said that she had received three applications from the County Administrator's Office. She called each applicant and two individuals declined consideration for an appointment at this time since they had recently accepted appointments on other Commissions. Mr. George Donely said that he was still interested in serving on the Historic Preservation Commission. Mr. Willard made a motion to recommend Mr. George Donely to the Board of County Commissioners for appointment to the Historic Preservation Commission. Ms. Erichsen seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Items from the floor – Staff was asked to work with Hal Willard and form a nominating committee for the election of Chair and Vice-Chair of the Commission to be held at the December meeting.

Announcements – Hal Wallard talked about the advertising of canoeing and kayaking at Newtowne Neck State Park. He advised Commission members that the Power Squadron would be hosting a boating course on February 8, 2011 in Lexington Park. He asked all the members to encourage anyone they knew who kayaked or canoed to take a basic boating course.

Adjournment – Motion by Mr. Willard, seconded by Mr. Lawrence to adjourn the meeting, which passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 6 p.m.

Submitted By: Grace Mary Brady

Signed by: _____
Robert Gibbs, Chair

Date: December 16, 2010