

St. Mary's County, Maryland
HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION
November 21, 2013

Present: Carol Moody, Chair
George Donely, Member
Scott Lawrence, Vice-Chair
Linda Reno, Member
Patricia Samford, Member
Michael Smolek, Member
Grace Mary Brady, Staff
Mary Farrar, Absent

Call to Order: The regularly scheduled meeting of the HPC was called to order at 4 p.m.

Recognition of Guests: William “Bill” Hunt, Deputy Director of Land Use and Growth Management, and Frankie Tippett.

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

Approval of Minutes: Motion by Ms. Reno, seconded by Mr. Donely to approve the September 26, 2013 minutes, which passed unanimously. Motion by Dr. Samford, second by Ms. Reno to approve the October 24, 2013 minutes as amended.

Staff Report:

- Handled 71 customer service requests.
- One demo for the month of November.
- TEC meeting – one required historic review.
- Raiders and Invaders Steering Committee Meeting on November 14, 2013 Working with Carol Picon, Maria Fleming, Carol Moody, Nancy Easterling, Dan Norris, Jeanne Pirtle, Susan Wolfe, Teri Dimsey, Laschelle McKay, Tracy Harris, Randy Richie, Carolyn Laray and Laschelle McKay to host a War of 1812 Celebration Weekend in Leonardtown June 6 – 8, 2014.
- Preservation Maryland tour on November 9, 2013. Took Preservation Maryland and its guests to Cremona, De la Brooke Manor, St. Francis Xavier Church, Newtowne Neck Manor Home, River Springs and Ocean Hall. Special thanks and appreciation to Carol Moody, Bob and Shirley Bowles, Mr. Matisick and Cathy Bailey for all their help.
- Finalized speaking arrangements with Chris Haley, Director for the Study of Slavery in Maryland at the Maryland State Archives to give a presentation on behalf of the Historic Preservation Commission in February, 2014.
- Working with former Commissioner Mattingly on the Leonardtown Volunteer Fire Dept. Carnival Project 1926 to 1950, Firemen’s Heritage Museum
- Follow up with Mr. Kangas at HSMC for additional trees for MD Big Tree Program. Heard from 3 other citizens who want their trees measured when the program representatives return in February. Found one of the missing Bicentennial Trees on North Snow Hill Manor Road.

Old Business:

- 1) Update on War of 1812 Event – June, 2014

Ms. Moody announced that the Committee had hired a band called the “British Invasion” for the concert that was going to be held on Saturday night of the weekend event. She also talked about looking into a larger space for Dr. Eshelman to give his presentations. They talked about asking the owners of Winegardner’s for the use of their showroom.

She reported on the first 'stake-holders' meeting which was held at the College of Southern Maryland, which included stake holders and members of the Leonardtown Business Community.

Mr. Tippett said that he thought the old church owned by Phil Dorsey might be a good site for Dr. Eshelman to speak. Ms. Moody thought that it might be too far off the beaten path as most of the activities were being held along the main square and down toward the Wharf area.

Dr. Samford said that she had a War of 1812 costume that she could wear during the festivities. She also recommended that the group contact Pat with the Jefferson Patterson Park Museum (JPPM) Sewing Group as they made costumes. It was also suggested to Ms. Moody that she contact Mrs. Seifert at JPPM.

2) State Park Update to Dept. of Rec and Parks

Ms. Moody attended the meeting and reported that there was no time table given for the Master Plan for Newtowne Neck State Park, but that Ms. Bright said that the munitions issued had been solved.

3) Archaeology Committee

Mr. Lawrence reported that a group of interested parties met on Monday night to talk about forming a St. Mary's County Chapter of the Archaeology Society of Maryland (ASM). He reported that 8 people were in attendance and that he would let the Commission members know when they were going to have another meeting.

4) Cemetery Committee

Mr. Lawrence suggested that the Cemetery Committee report be removed from Old Business.

New Business:

1) Maryland Historical Trust, Certified Local Government Status

Dr. Samford provided Commission members with the following report:

Summary of Meeting with MHT Personnel – October 31, 2013.

In attendance: Mike Smolek, Nell Ziehl (Chief of the Office of Preservation Planning and Museum Programs), Charlie Hall (State Terrestrial Archaeologist), Beth Cole, Dixie Henry (both Section 106 reviewers for MHT), Patricia Samford

Mike and Tricia talked about the push from within the St. Mary's County HPC to pass an archaeological ordinance and they provided a little detail about what their thoughts and progress have been to date. MHT staff made it clear that they are very much in support of these attempts. They were not supportive of any of the HPC members taking a role in project review, stating that there needs to be a dedicated staff person hired by the county to undertake review. Reasons cited include the absolute need for consistency in enforcement and decisions made. This was stated as critical to the success of any archaeological review program—the developers get to understand the process and know that standards are not going to change depending on whom they are dealing with.

There is a good chance that the county could get a CLG pass-through grant (cap at \$25,000, most grants come in at \$10,000 to 15,000) to hire someone to do the project review. At this point, a match is required from the county, but Nell is working to get this requirement dropped. The match is allowed to be in-kind, such as office space costs, computer equipment, etc. They made it clear that they don't like to fund the same projects year after year, so that this funding stream would not be a permanent/continuing revenue stream for the county archaeologist.

Even if we do not have the ordinance passed, we can still apply for the grant and could get it. At the present time, MHT does not have updated materials for local government entities on how to word and structure an archaeological ordinance.

Other local governments that have archaeological ordinances include Anne Arundel County (Jane Cox as contact), the City of Frederick, Charles County, Prince George's County and Calvert County. In Anne Arundel County, avoidance of archaeological sites is almost 100%, based on Phase I survey site location and assessments. Apparently Kirsti prepares scopes of work for Calvert County, but MHT staff thinks that this is unusual – that the archaeological contract firms do their own scopes in most localities. Mike suggested that we try to find good allies to have in our court as we begin to approach the County Commissioners.

There was also discussion of the larger duties and responsibilities of the HPC. Tricia asked if we should update the ordinance that established and set out the responsibilities for the Commission. Nell said she would be happy to look at it with those questions in mind. Tricia will request it from Gracie Brady and send it along. Nell stated that MHT needs to update their model ordinance as well, but they can send us what they have at the present time for our planning purposes.

Nell also stated that she would be happy to come and speak to the Commission after the first of the New Year (Jan. or Feb.) and would like to be accompanied by Melanie Lyttle, director of the Maryland Association of Historic District Commissions, and Beth, Dixie or Charlie. Some of the types of projects the HPC could undertake would include road surveys, landscape/cultural viewshed surveys, National Register nominations for structures or districts, and the creation of additional historic districts.

After Dr. Samford's report was given, Carol Moody asked is an archaeologist could do the probability model for the county as a first task (CLG Grant)?

2) Training by the Maryland Historical Trust

Commission members agreed to meet earlier for training at 2 p.m. Ms. Brady to send Nell Ziehl possible dates from Commission members. The Commission voted on Tuesday, February 11 or Thursday, February 13 as potential training dates.

3) Nomination Committee for December Election of Officers

Ms. Reno offered to head up the Nominating Committee and bring back a recommendation for next year's slate of officers. She volunteered Ms. Farrar to assist her since she was absent that day. Laughter ensued.

Items from the Floor: Dr. Samford announced that she been asked to serve on the National Committee that is planning the 2016 '50' year anniversary of the passage of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966. The National Trust, the National Council on Public History, the Architect Institute of Architects, National Park Service Civil War Groups and lots of other groups have been included on this Committee. What they want to do is preservation as being something at the local level to evolve around preserving place and stories. They would like to get local communities to do some kind of preservation project in 2016. Money is a big issue. Dr. Samford said that the meeting was four hours and that everyone was very excited. Ms. Moody said that Dr. Boyd is a great example of someone who has done it all along. Dr. Samford said the Committee discussed having a website that can host local communities (e.g. Wikipedia). Ms. Moody asked what the name of the Committee was and Dr. Samford said she wasn't sure if they had an official name yet, but it was basically the Committee to Celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the Passage of the National Historic Preservation Act.

Announcement: None

Adjournment: Motion by Ms. Reno, seconded by Mr. Lawrence to adjourn. There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 5:05 p.m.

Submitted By:

Grace Mary Brady

Date: Approved on December 19, 2013

Signed by:

Carol Moody, Chair