

St. Mary's County, Maryland
HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION
September 22, 2016

Present: Linda Reno, Chair
Rob Gibbs, Member
Eve Love, Member
Kent Randell, Member
Sean Wickers, Member
Teresa Wilson, Member
Pete Himmelheber, Absent

Call to Order: The regularly scheduled meeting of the HPC was called to order at 4:00 p.m.

Recognition of Guests: Bill Hunt, Deputy Director of Land Use and Growth Management; Guy Leonard, County Times; Jason Babcock, Enterprise; Captain Ed Willenborg and Detective Corey Ellis.

Approval of Agenda:

Motion by Mr. Gibbs, seconded by Mr. Randell to approve the Agenda, which passed unanimously.

Approval of Minutes:

Motion by Mr. Gibbs, seconded by Mr. Randell to approve the July 28, 2016 Minutes, which passed unanimously.
Motion by Ms. Love, seconded by Mr. Gibbs to approve the August 25, 2016 Minutes, which passed unanimously.

Old Business:

1. Cemetery Committee Update – To be combined with New Business – cemetery issues.
2. Speaker's Bureau - Rob Gibbs. Reminder from Mr. Gibbs for the Lead Coffin Presentation scheduled for October 20, 2016.

New Business:

1. Sheriff Timothy Cameron – cemetery issues.

Detective Ellis shared the results of his investigations into 2 of the 10 current cemetery issues brought to him by the Historic Preservation Commission. The Barber Cemetery in Mechanicsville has been fenced to prevent further damage by livestock. He reported that he had spoken with the owners of West St. Mary's Manor, who had declined to speak with him at any length. Detective Ellis handed out copies of the Maryland Criminal Law Code Ann. @ 10-401 and 10-402 and talked about several glitches in the Code that made it hard for the State's Attorney to prosecute anyone. The definitions of "Associated funerary object" includes a gravestone, monument, tomb, or other structure in or directly associated with who caused damaged to gravestones, monument, tomb, or other structure in or directly associated with a burial site. He reported further that any person who violates this section of the law is guilty of a misdemeanor and on conviction is subject to imprisonment not exceeding 5 years or a fine not exceeding \$10,000 or both. There was discussion among Commission members to amend either the state statute or add to the St. Mary's County Code that it would be unlawful for a person to willfully destroy, damage or remove an associated funerary object or other structure placed in a cemetery or burial site. It was also suggested that cemeteries located on private property be defined.

Mr. Hunt offered to meet with the County Attorney and come back with recommendations for the October 27, 2016 meeting.

Each Commission member thanked Captain Willenborg and Detective Ellis for their thorough investigation and taking the time to report back to the Commission.

Items from the Floor:

None

Announcements:

The next meeting of the Historic Preservation Commission will be held on Thursday, October 22, 2016 at Land Use and Growth Management at 4 p.m.

Adjournment: Motion by Mr. Gibbs, seconded by Mr. Randell to adjourn the meeting, which passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 5:10 p.m.

Submitted By:

Signed by:

Grace Mary Brady

Linda Reno, Chair

Date: Approved on October 27, 2016