

HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

Minutes of the meeting held on January 24, 2008 at the
Department of Land Use and Growth Management

Present: Hal Willard, Chairman
Jim Grusholt, Vice-Chairman
Susan Erichsen, Member
Rob Gibbs, Member
Mary Hayden, Member
Teresa Wilson, LUGM Staff

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

Approval of Minutes: The minutes of the December 13, 2007 meeting were approved as submitted.

Discussion of Draft of Annual HPC Report

Mr. Gibbs asked Ms. Wilson to review the term expiration dates in the draft to be sure each is accurate. Ms. Erichsen felt that the points listed in Accomplishments/Issues and Challenges needed to be more positively stated. Ms. Erichsen, as a new member, said she had other minor questions she would not take up meeting time for, but would review them with Ms. Wilson after today's meeting. Ms. Wilson said that she would submit the revised draft at the February 28th meeting.

Grant Updates: Religious Freedom Scenic Byway CMP Grant and MHT Historic Roads Grant

Ms. Wilson informed the HPC that work continues on the Corridor Management Plan for the Religious Freedom Scenic Byway. Meeting # 7 of the Advisory Committee will be held at the Charlotte Hall Library from 1:30-3:00 on January 31st. The topic of this meeting will be transportation issues relating to way-finding and safety along the Byway. The grant effort is on track and a public meeting will be scheduled in late February to inform citizens of progress so far.

Ms. Wilson also informed the HPC that A.D. Marble has been chosen as the consultant for Phase II of the Maryland Historical Trust Certified Local Government Grant that will survey and document twelve additional historic roads to add to the seven documented in Phase I. Ms. Wilson will attend a meeting with the consultant and Thomas Reinhart, Administrator of Architectural Research, MHT on February 4th to establish a scope of work and get the grant started.

Planning to Pinpoint Remaining Cemetery Locations

Ms. Wilson said that the cemeteries for which there are Tax Map, Block, and Parcel numbers have been forwarded to Kathryn Chaney for entry into HTE, so that they will pop up to alert staff if activity occurs on a parcel. She noted that about fifty cemeteries on the list have no TM, BL, or PAR numbers and the cemetery sub-committee will have to track them down. Mr. Gibbs said that he would run off a list from the database of the "missing" cemeteries and suggested contacting genealogists about specific cemeteries as one method of locating them. It was also suggested that Ms. Regina Hammett be contacted in order to use her knowledge about local cemeteries to help in this effort. He also suggested breaking down the search by election districts to keep it orderly. He will schedule another meeting of the sub-committee within the next several weeks.

Items from the Floor

Ms. Wilson asked the HPC whether they preferred the banner or the folding board display. The members agreed that the folding board was more versatile and cheaper, so they directed Ms. Wilson to purchase the folding board.

Ms. Wilson informed the HPC that one of its public programming goals for 2008 will be met by a joint sponsorship with the public library of a talk by Psyche Williams-Forsen, speaker from the Maryland Council for the Humanities will give a talk entitled "Building Houses Out of Chicken Legs" which will examine the role of this food in African American life. Dr. Williams-Forsen is an assistant professor of American Studies at the University of Maryland. Her talk will tie in with the library's Big Read program which will examine the book *A Lesson Before Dying* by African American author Ernest Gaines. The talk will be on April 1, 2008 at 7:00 p.m. at the Lexington Park Library.

Mr. Gibbs asked Ms. Wilson if she had heard any more about the fate of the Dameron House. She responded that the new owners plan to demolish the building, but have not set a date as yet. She spoke with them about the house and they informed her that the company they consulted about renovating the house informed them that the cost would be prohibitive because the house was allowed to deteriorate to such an extent under previous ownership. Ms. Wilson did ask if they would allow the architectural historians from the Maryland Historical Trust to make a third visit to the house to document it before demolition. They agreed to allow them one hour's access in February.

Ms. Erichsen noted that when a property comes up for re-zoning that an opportunity exists to request certain conditions be placed on the property as a condition of granting the re-zoning. Ms. Wilson said that she regularly comments on the TEC list and will ask to review any re-zoning applications that may affect historic properties.

Mr. Willard noted that he had received his postcard from Preservation Maryland announcing the Annual May Restoration and Revitalization Conference for May 29 and 30 in Hagerstown. Ms. Wilson asked all the members to consider attending at get back to her after checking their schedules. She noted that good attendance from the HPC ensures that they get the training they need to do their jobs and the "creds" that keep HPC Certified Local Government status with the Maryland Historical Trust. Without that status, the county cannot apply for historic preservation non-capital grants, so it is important to keep this in mind.

Election of Officers for 2008

Mr. Gibbs nominated Mr. Willard for Chairman, and he was unanimously elected by the members for a second term. Mr. Gibbs nominated Mr. Grusholt for Vice-Chairman, and he was unanimously elected for a second term.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 5:10 p.m.

Signed by: _____ Submitted by: _____