

HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

Minutes of the meeting held on February 27, 2008 at the
Department of Land Use and Growth Management

Present: Hal Willard, Chairman
Jim Grusholt, Vice-Chairman
Bill Farrar, Member
Rob Gibbs, Member
Ruth Mitchell, Member
Teri Wilson, LUGM Staff

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

Approval of Minutes: The minutes of the January 24, 2008 meeting were approved as corrected.

Approval of Final Draft of Annual Report

The final draft of the Historic Preservation Commission 2007 Annual Report was unanimously adopted with minor changes made to the Glossary to add the acronym SAT for Save America's Treasures. Ms. Wilson will schedule a date for the HPC to present the report to the Board of County Commissioners.

Dameron House Documentation Update

Ms. Wilson informed the HPC that she was able to obtain permission from the new owner of SM-42 Dameron Crossroads House for a one hour visit for the Maryland Historical Trust architectural historians to continue documentation of the structure. They had previously visited three times in 2005 before the property changed hands because the property is highly significant to the architectural history of the state and is in a small number of structures dating from the late 1700s. They visited the house on February 13th.

Ms. Wilson noted that between the 13th and today's meeting a citizen who is concerned about the fate of the property sent an email to the Planning Director and the Board of County Commissioners advocating that the county establish a fund to purchase endangered historic buildings and re-sell them to buyers who would be required to restore them. Some jurisdictions around the country have such funds. Some use the funds to renovate or stabilize the buildings before reselling. Goal 8 of the St. Mary's County Historic Preservation Plan is to establish such a fund.

The HPC members asked Ms. Wilson to draft a letter to the Board of County Commissioners supporting the establishment of a revolving fund (the money from the sale of a historic property is put back into the fund to be used to save other historic structures.)

HPC and Library Sponsored April 1st Public Program

Ms. Wilson will work on a flier that the HPC can distribute electronically and in paper form publicizing the Humanities Council speaker. Mr. Gibbs suggested that the HPC find out if the Humanities Council allows taping of the program for broadcasting on Channel 95. Ms. Wilson said she would ask the Humanities Council about this.

Items from the Floor

Mr. Gibbs said that he had received a flier announcing the annual Preservation and Revitalization Conference in Hagerstown May 29 and 30. Ms. Wilson asked the members to let her know as soon as possible if they plan to attend.

Ms. Mitchell noted that the Association of Gravestone Studies will meet in Connecticut. This conference will offer many workshops on cemetery preservation. She asked if there would be funding in the HPC budget for her to attend. Ms. Wilson asked her to provide the information to her.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

Submitted by: _____ Signed by: _____