

## HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

### Minutes of the meeting held on May 24, 2007 at the Department of Land Use and Growth Management

**Members Present:** Hal Willard, Chairman  
William Farrar, Member  
Mary Hayden, Member  
Ruth Mitchell, 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 April 26, 2007 meeting were approved as written.

#### **Discussion on Letter from Anne Arundel County Genealogical Society**

Ms. Wilson noted that the letter is timely, since the HPC is also working on a cemetery database. She stated that the Anne Arundel Genealogical Society is compiling information very similar to the book by Janet Tice about St. Mary's Cemeteries. Mr. Willard added that the HPC database is more detailed than what Anne Arundel has done so far.

Ms. Wilson asked the HPC if they were willing to share the St. Mary's database.

Mr. Willard said that he thought there was no reason to not offer the information.

Ms. Mitchell thought that the HPC should hold off sending it until it is more complete. Ms. Wilson asked the HPC if they would consider sending the data now and periodic updates later. Ms. Mitchell suggested that the HPC ask Anne Arundel to send a complete copy of their database for the library.

#### **Report on Religious Freedom Scenic Byway Initial Meeting**

The Byway Management Committee meeting was held on May 11<sup>th</sup>, and Ms. Wilson attended the National Scenic Byways Conference in Baltimore May 21-23. The purpose of the meeting was to establish a work schedule for the Byway effort and to create a list of potential members for the Advisory Committee. A member of the HPC could attend or an emeritus HPC member such as Peter Himelheber could be invited. Mr. Willard said that Pete would be a good choice because of his extensive knowledge of county road history.

Ms. Wilson noted that members of the clergy from along the Byway will be invited. She said that on June 5, there will be a tour of segments of the Byway. She, Carolyn Laray and the planners from Charles County will attend as well as representatives from the Maryland State Highway Administration, Maryland State Tourism, the Southern Maryland Heritage Area, the Maryland Department of Natural Resources and consultants from Larnder/Klein. The Charles County loop will cover Port Tobacco and Nanjemoy, and the St. Mary's portion will include Budds Creek Road, Leonardtown, Calloway, Great Mills and St. Mary's City, if time permits.

Ms. Wilson said she attended sessions at the National Byway Conference that dealt with issues encountered in the process of creating a Corridor Management Plan. She thought the information she gathered will be helpful as the process begins in St. Mary's and Charles Counties.

#### **Member Comments: Historic Preservation Awards**

Ms. Mitchell thought that the County Commissioners were supportive of preservation. Mr. Willard said he attended the celebration St. Nicholas Church held before the award presentation. He received a VIP welcome and was introduced to people there. He was photographed cutting the cake with the base skipper and the monsignor. The photo appeared in the Tester and identified Hal as a member of the Historic Preservation Commission. Ms. Wilson noted that the HPC will be before the Commissioners again to present the annual report, which will help keep preservation issues visible.

#### **Items from the Floor**

Ms. Wilson asked the HPC to consider whether they want to meet in Room 14 next year.

Ms. Mitchell asked how many members would be attending the Annual Preservation and Revitalization Conference in

Chestertown. Ms. Hayden said she would be attending the first day. Ms. Wilson said that she will give all the members attending their paper work. She asked the members to meet on May 30<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 p.m. at Land Use and Growth Management.

Ms. Wilson asked about setting up a program on archaeology for the public. Ms. Mitchell said she would talk to Julie King and the archaeologist from Don Krevling Prince George's County. The program could be held in September or later. The Lexington Park Library meeting room could hold more people.

Bill Farrar and Amy Carter's meeting with Nancy Dick of St. Michael's Manor was canceled, but they will reschedule to discuss filming the public service announcement on historic designation.

Mr. Farrar asked if the name he sent for the Flattops oral history, Kerry Robinson, was passed on to the project directors. Mr. Willard noted that the contact he gave, Ed Russell, lived in the Flattops for eight years and managed the property. Ms. Wilson told the HPC that she has met with Andrew Bove, the student who is coordinating the effort and gave him all the names the HPC had provided as well as maps and photographs.

Mr. Willard noted that he and Ms. Wilson visited the Laurel Preserve development twice to locate the cemetery, and succeeded with the help of Julie Vass on the second try.

Ms. Mitchell asked where this was in the county. Mr. Willard said it was in the Mechanicsville area. He noted that the cabin on the parcel is made of sandstone. Ms. Mitchell said there are sandstone deposits in the St. Mary's River. The cemetery stones appeared to be made of cement. Three boundary markers were found. Ms. Wilson will place her comment in the TEC file recommending that the cemetery and cabin be marked off and avoided by construction crews and that the developer agree in writing to the verbal assurances he made earlier that the cemetery and cabin would not be damaged or destroyed.

**Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 5:15 p.m.

Submitted by: \_\_\_\_\_ Signed by: \_\_\_\_\_