

St. Mary's County, Maryland
HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION
January 22, 2015

Present: Scott Lawrence, Vice Chair
Pete Himmellheber, Member
Linda Reno, Member
Dr. Patricia Samford, Member
Michael Smolek, Member
Teresa Wilson, Member
Carol Moody, Chair, absent
Grace Mary Brady, Staff

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

Recognition of Guests: Bill Hunt, Deputy Director of Land Use and Growth Management and Scott Strickland, contract archaeologist for CLG grant.

Approval of Agenda: Motion by Ms. Wilson, second by Dr. Samford to approve the Agenda, which passed unanimously.

Approval of Minutes: The December 18, 2014 minutes were deferred until the next meeting.

Staff Report:

- 37 customer service requests (books).
- 1 demolition.
- Division staff meeting, TEC meeting, HPC meeting, CLG Grant Meetings.
- Continue work and research on Blackistone Book with Dr. Gordon Blackistone Hughes and Mick Blackistone.
- Prepared quarterly report for CLG Archaeology Grant received from the Maryland Historical Trust.
- Justice Rolls Down, written by Michael McCauley, published. Spent time marketing new county book to vendors who sell the current *I'm Goin' Down County, An Architectural Journey through St. Mary's County*. The Department of Land Use and Growth Management, Cecil's Mill, St. Mary's County Historical Society, Fenwick Books and Music, Lola Belle, Zimmerman's and Keepin It Local currently sell both books. Sold more than \$500 worth of books the month of January, 2015.
- Maryland State Archives for research on Commissioners of St. Mary's County project – compile a list of all County Commissioners from 1841 to present.
- Met with Scott Strickland, Dr. Julia King, Bill Hunt to establish time-line for CLG Archaeology grant.
- Wrote Historic Preservation Commission Annual Report.

Old Business:

1) CLG Archaeology Grant Update

Scott Strickland talked with members about the meeting he and Dr. King had with the Maryland Historical Trust. He indicated that the trust was satisfied with the methodology and the direction the initial work was taking. He prepared maps for Commission members of St. Mary's County Archaeological Site conditions using rankings such as impacts from existing buildings, pavement, possible grading, and erosion. Mr. Strickland also prepared maps for the meeting which depicted sites in danger of flooding. There were some areas such as St. George's Island, Bullock Island, Point Lookout, St. Catherine's Island that were the most endangered from flooding and future storm surges.

New Business:

1) Historic Preservation Awards

Ms. Brady passed out the nomination form that members could use to recommend an individual for an award. She reviewed awards that had previously been submitted and talked briefly about the various categories: service, project and life-time achievement.

2) St. Mary's County Historical Society Request

Susan Wolfe, director of the St. Mary's County Historical Society, had sent a copy of the *NEWS & NOTES*, a publication of the Prince George's County Historical Society. She noted that Prince George's County listed its properties of concern and perhaps, that would be something that the HPC members could do, and submit the list to the St. Mary's County Historical Society to generate awareness of properties that were threatened by neglect, insufficient funds, adverse public policy and inappropriate development.

Dr. Samford offered to look into her suggestion and bring it back to the commission.

3) January 27, 2015 Commissioners of St. Mary's County Volunteer Appreciation Reception @ 8:30 a.m.

Ms. Brady stated that Ms. Moody had asked her to remind each Commission member of the upcoming Commissioner volunteer appreciation reception. Most of the members planned on attending.

4) Charles County HPC hosting a Modernism in Maryland workshop on February 7th from 10 a.m. – noon in the Waldorf West Library, 10405 Odonnell Place, Waldorf. Taught by Melanie Little, Exec. Dir. MAHDC – need member attendance.

Ms. Brady asked for a head count from commission members to she could let Cathy Thompson, Charles County, know how many members could attend this training. Carol Moody, Linda Reno, Teresa Wilson and Pete Himmelheber planned on attending.

5) Maryland Association of Historic District Commission Workshop to be scheduled in the future.

Ms. Brady passed out a copy of the Workshop Series offered by the Maryland Historic Preservation Commission and asked the members to select which workshop they wanted. Members elected not to attend a workshop on the weekend. A poll was taken and Monday afternoons seemed to be the best time and opportunity. The commission asked Ms. Brady to schedule the Connecting with your Community: Communication, Education, and Outreach skill session.

Items from the Floor:

Mr. Smolek announced that he was going to resign from the Historic Preservation Commission due to a potential for there being a conflict of interest that could arise in his position as the NAS Patuxent River Cultural Resources Program Manager.

He then spoke about the Newtowne Neck Master Plan Committee meeting on January 20, 2015 and said that more than 400 responses had been received to on the survey that had been posted. The majority of the responses asked that Newtowne Neck have a very low impact development. He talked about Dr. King who has been trying to work with DNR on the archaeology, but that DNR has not come forth with any funding. She is committed to doing some work there and will be using funds that she had already secured for a 4 week field school at Newtowne Neck in the summer of 2015. Mike talked about the valuable drawings that Ruth Mitchell had tracked down which had been made by architect Mike Trostel and the fact that Trostel had worked through the drainage problems with a very creative diversion for the water.

Announcements: Don Shomette & Mallows Bay – “The Ghost Fleet of Mallows Bay: A Forgotten American Treasure” will be on March 12 at 7 p.m. at the La Plata Police Station. Mr. Smolek provided Commission members with the process to get the site listed as a NOAA National Marine Sanctuary. It will be several years before the process is completed.

Adjournment: Motion by Mr. Himmelheber, second by Mr. Smolek, to adjourn, which passed unanimously. Meeting was adjourned at 5:10 p.m.

Submitted By:

Signed by:

Grace Mary Brady

Carol Moody, Chair

Date: Approved on February 26, 2015