

St. Mary's County, Maryland
HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION
October 24, 2013

Present: Carol Moody, Chair
George Donely, Member
Mary Farrar, Secretary
Linda Reno, Member
Patricia Samford, Member
Michael Smolek, Member
Grace Mary Brady, Staff
Scott Lawrence, Absent

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

Recognition of Guests: William "Bill" Hunt, Deputy Director of Land Use and Growth Management, and Frankie Tippett.

Approval of Agenda: Motion by Ms. Farrar, seconded by Dr. Samford to approve the Agenda as presented. Motion passed unanimously.

Approval of Minutes: Deferred.

Reports

Staff Report:

- 1) Handled 103 customer service requests.
- 2) One demo for the month of October.
- 3) TEC meeting – one required historic review.
- 4) Raiders and Invaders Steering Committee Meeting on October 17, 2013 Working with Carol Picon, Maria Fleming, Carol Moody, Nancy Easterling, Dan Norris, Jeanne Pirtle, Susan Wolfe, Teri Dimsey, Laschelle McKay, Tracy Harris, Randy Richie, Carolyn Laray and Laschelle McKay to host a War of 1812 Celebration Weekend in Leonardtown June 6 – 8, 2014
- 5) Partners Planning Meeting for Raiders Tuesday, October 29 at 6 p.m. Set up Exhibit for stake holders meeting.
- 6) Measured trees with 3 volunteers from the Maryland Big Tree Program on October 25, 26 and 27. Measured 27 trees in 3 days and added 19 county champions and one state champion.
- 7) Made final arrangements with Preservation Maryland for a tour of Southern Maryland for guests of Preservation Maryland on November 9, 2014. Worked with private property owners to obtain permission for group tour.
- 8) Attended the Network to Freedom Program Training at the Maryland State Archives for the Underground Railroad sponsored by National Park Service on October 21, 2013. NPS is looking for additional sites to be nominated to the Freedom Trail.

During the report Ms. Brady talking about adding the slave cemetery on Cemetery Road as a possible site for the Network to Freedom Program. She would have to match a burial site with an individual who resisted slavery through flight and ended up buried in that cemetery. Further investigation was needed.

Ms. Brady also reported that during her meeting at the State Archives for the Network to Freedom Program Training, she spoke with Christopher Haley who would be honored to speak on Slavery in Maryland incorporating the three sites in St. Mary's County that are currently part of the Underground Railroad in February, 2014.

Old Business:

- 1) Update on War of 1812 Event – June, 2014

Ms. Brady talked about the upcoming 'partners' meeting to be held at the College on Tuesday, October 29 at 6 p.m. She was bringing an exhibit to set up. She invited all of the members to attend as this was the first public stake holders meeting.

In response to the letter from Senator Dyson, Ms. Brady reported that there was not sufficient water depth for the Dove or Pride of Baltimore to dock anywhere near the pier area of Leonardtown.

2) Additional fund request for Raiders and Invaders Event

Ms. Brady asked if the HPC would be interested in participating in the upcoming War of 1812 Raiders and Invaders Event by sponsoring Dr. Ralph Eshelman as one of the events special speakers. The honorarium would be \$400 and would cover two presentations given by Mr. Eshelman throughout Saturday afternoon. Ms. Moody talked about the set-up for Dr. Eshelman's talks – to be held in the Town of Leonardtown Meeting Room. Some other members thought it might be useful to have Dr. Eshelman's presentations given in a larger space and suggested looking into a larger space.

Motion by Mr. Smolek, seconded by Ms. Reno to approve the expenditure of \$400 as an Honorarium for Dr. Eshelman's presentations during the Raiders and Invaders event. Motion passed unanimously. Mr. Smolek also suggested that Dr. Eshelman be permitted to sell and sign his books.

3) Archaeology Committee

Dr. Samford talked about her efforts in obtaining a GIS layer of the archaeology sites on behalf of St. Mary's County. Despite her best efforts, the Archaeology layer of sites will still not be available to the County. She then talked about the possibility of St. Mary's trying to pursue a CLG grant to pay for the services of an archaeologist. Ms. Brady said that Departmental and Commissioner Approval would have to be acquired for the match. She talked about a previous CLG grant for historic roads that was cancelled before the entire project was complete because there was no county match available.

Dr. Samford recommended that Nell Ziehl, Chief, Office of Preservation Planning and Museum Programs, come to some of the HPC meetings and provide training for its members. Everyone liked that idea.

Addendum: Dr. Samford and Mike Smolek will be meeting with representatives of the Maryland Historical Trust to discuss all the issues mentioned above on October 31, 2013. Dr. Samford advised staff that she would preparing minutes of those meetings to hand out to all board members at its November 21st meeting.

4) Cemetery Committee – No Report

New Business:

1) Review and Discussion of Maryland Historical Trust, Preserve Maryland Draft Outline

Ms. Brady passed out an e-mail from Mr. Smolek dated October 22, 2013 containing his thoughts and suggestions about the Maryland Draft Plan. Committee members embraced his suggestions and asked that his recommendations be sent to Maryland Historical Trust. There was also discussion among the members about the fact that the draft plan did not contain any 'action plans'.

Mr. Hunt and Ms. Brady had already sent their comments to the Trust.

Items from the Floor: Mr. Smolek talked about the future of the Manor House at Newtowne Neck. He reported that Mr. John O'Rourke, Peter Rivers, Ruth Mitchell, and other had met there to talk about the future of the Newtowne Manor Home. He reported 'good news' in that Mr. O'Rourke stated that the house was in pretty good condition. They talked about a 1980 monograph, 150 page report given to Father Neil about the paint samples taken in the manor.

Announcement: Mr. Smolek also talked about old photos that could be purchased on www.tribunephotos.com. He shared photos that he has recently purchased with Commission members.

Adjournment: Motion by Mr. Smolek, seconded by Ms. Farrar to adjourn. There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 5:20 p.m.

Submitted By:

Grace Mary Brady

Date: Approved on November 21, 2013

Signed by:

Carol Moody, Chair