

St. Mary's County, Maryland
HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION
Minutes of the meeting held on
October 27, 2011

Present: Carol Moody, Chair
George Donely, Member
Rob Gibbs, Member
Mary Farrar, Member
Scott Lawrence, Member
Ruth Mitchell, Member
Mike Smolek, Member
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: Frankie Tippett, Mechanicsville and Carrie Munn, County Times Newspaper.

Approval of Agenda: Motion by Ms. Farrar, seconded by Ms. Mitchell to approve the Agenda as submitted. Motion passed unanimously.

Approval of Minutes: Motion by Mr. Lawrence, seconded by Ms. Farrar to approve the September 22, 2011 minutes as amended. Motion passed unanimously.

Reports: Historic Preservation (Grace Mary Brady, Historic Preservation Planner II)

- Handled 48 customer service requests.
- Two demolition requests.
- No TEC meeting.
- Sheriff Book meeting with Sheriff Cameron, Cindy Allen, Linda Reno, Maryann Thompson and Intern, Tyler Mattingly. 375th book committee selected 12 events for the first illustrations. I continue to work with George McWilliams, illustrator. Met George McWilliams in person on September 30th and reviewed the first twelve illustrations for the 375th Anniversary book.
- Meetings with Joe Norris, local artist, pertaining to the War of 1812 pamphlet.
- Nominated Dameron House to the 2012 Most Endangered List.
- Meetings continue with Dr. Gordon Blackistone Hughes and Mrs. Myra Hughes, owners of River Springs, relative to the War of 1812 and Civil War. Carol Moody, Linda Reno and Tyler Mattingly (intern) evaluating collections and scanning information.
- Newtowne Archaeology Dig with Scott Lawrence, Ed Gibb, Mary Farrar, Carol Moody, Frankie Tippett.
- Supported Museum Studies Lecture series provided by Dr. Julia King, St. Mary's College (1) The Exhibit you won't see in a Museum: The Structure of the Universe through the eyes of the Bible, by Dr. Stephen Godfrey, Calvert Marine Museum; and (2) The Confederate Flag: America's Most Controversial Symbol by John M. Coski, Museum of the Confederacy, Richmond, Virginia.
- Staffed Historic Preservation Commission Lecture event at the Lexington Park Library featuring Dr. Julia King. Topic: Forts, Traders and Traitors.
- Met with Heritage Printing and Carolyn Laray to re-create War of 1812 map into more of a St. Mary's County Tourism map.
- Gave a presentation to the Southern Maryland Antiques and Arts Association Group.....created 10 photo panels for group.
- Carolyn Laray and I gave a presentation to the Planning Commission on War of 1812 (Star Spangled Banner Byway) and the various Trails in St. Mary's County.
- Spent a day with representatives from the Maryland Big Tree Program: New State Champion tree, Rose of Sharon; St. Mary's Champion, Sugar Maple; St. Mary's Champion, Bald Cypress; 2

- Willow Oak trees; re-measure an Osage Orange; add a new Osage Orange tree; and St. Mary's Champion, Pecan Tree.
- Oyster Festival to sell County Book, I'm Goin' Down County by Kirk Ranzetta.

Ms. Brady passed out a list of supplies needed for the "Reading Lights the Way" Holiday Event planned at the Piney Point Lighthouse. Contact April Havens at 301-994-1471 if anyone had one of the items on April's wish list.

Ms. Brady passed out an invitation from Ingrid Swann to the November 11, 2011 celebration at the 5th Annual Gravelly Hills Bonfire Party. Contact Ingrid at 301-884-3456.

Ms. Brady talked about her meeting with Father Brian Sanderfoot, who expressed concerns about the future development of Newtowne Neck State Park. Calvin Strozier had prepared a map of the area which made it easy for everyone to visualize where the historic districts were located in respect to any proposed recreational use. She said that Father Sanderfoot had met with Delegate Johnny Wood and would be meeting with Senator Dyson in the near future. Mr. Smolek said that he had worked on a Comprehensive Cultural Resource Survey for the Newtowne area in the 1980's. Mr. Lawrence talked about his recent cemetery restoration work in that area. The Commission agreed to explore what resources were sensitive; the locations of sensitive areas and habitats; and proposed recreational uses. Mr. Gibbs asked if anyone knew what the intent of the grant awarded by US Senator Cardin for that area had been. Ms. Brady suggested that Senator Cardin's Southern Maryland Representative be invited to a meeting.

Old Business:

1) HPC Lecture Series.

Ms. Mitchell and Mr. Lawrence talked about their upcoming lecture, which will be held on December 6, 2011 at 7 p.m. Mr. Gibbs was going to meet with the library to make sure it wouldn't close during the lecture. Ms. Brady offered to make a flyer.

2) Update on Archaeology at St. Francis Xavier Cemetery.

Mr. Lawrence started the meeting by passing out an 85 page report prepared by James G. Gibb, Scott D. Lawrence and Peter Quantock on their search for Newtowne Chapel. An outline is provided below, which captures the essence of his talk to members of the HPC that afternoon.

This dig was initiated by Father Brian Sanderfoot, pastor of St. Francis Xavier in Leonardtown, Maryland. Father Sanderfoot authorized several phases of archaeological investigation at St. Francis Xavier Cemetery for purposes of mapping the cemetery and its many grave markers and locating the site of the 1662-1704 Jesuit chapel. The project, as conceived by Fr. Sanderfoot and understood by the authors, contributes to the history of St. Francis Xavier on the eve of its 350th anniversary. The story of this parish church is one in which local Roman Catholics, initially in the face of religious bigotry and political suppression, created and built a community on the banks of the Potomac River. It also is a story of the Jesuit fathers and lay brothers who sacrificed much to help the people of Newtown Neck and vicinity in this undertaking. The search for, and confirmed identification of, the chapel site will aid the community in the discovery of its roots and the celebration of its accomplishments.

This report documents the methods and results of the various phases of field and laboratory work. It consists of seven sections:

- 1) Introduction
- 2) Project Location and Environment
- 3) Culture History
- 4) Research Design and Methods
- 5) Field and Laboratory Results
- 6) Summary, Interpretations, and Recommendations
- 7) Supporting Documentation

All of the work described herein was conducted in accordance with the *Standards and Guidelines for Archeological Investigations in Maryland* (Shaffer and Cole 1994), the *Specifications for Consulting*

Engineers Services Manual–Section IV (Maryland Department of Transportation 1986), and the *Consultant Specifications for Archeological Procedures* (Maryland State Highway Administration 1992).

3) Update on book sales at Oyster Festival by Carol Moody.
Ms. Moody reported that \$350 worth of books was sold during the oyster festival.

New Business:

1) Vacancy on HPC – recommendation to BOCC.
Ms. Brady reviewed the terms for Historic Preservation Commission members explaining that Mr. Donely had been appointed to fill a vacancy created by the retirement of Victor Govier. Motion by Mr. Lawrence, seconded by Mr. Smolek to write a letter to the Board of County Commissioners asking that Mr. George Donely be appointed to a three year term on the Historic Preservation Commission. Motion passed unanimously.

2) Future Lecture Topics.
Suggestions for guest speakers were offered. Pete Himmelheber (War of 1812), Dr. Godfrey (Civil War), Dr. Ralph Eshelman (War of 1812), Sheriff Tim Cameron (375th Anniversary of SMC Sheriff's), and Ms. Moody talked about a program called "Civil War in your Attic". She suggested that the HPC could do something similar. Ms. Moody was to invite Dr. Godfrey and Ms. Brady was to invite Dr. Eshelman to participate in the HPC lecture series. The members felt that they should co-sponsor the lecture series whenever possible (e.g. Genealogy Society, Library, Historical Society, College, etc.)

Items from the floor:

Frankie Tippett felt that Joshua Barney did not get the recognition he deserved for his heroism during the War of 1812. He felt that the HPC should do something to recognize him.
Mr. Smolek offered to arrange a tour for members at PAX River. He asked about member's availability during the day and will report back with a date and time to everyone at the next meeting.

Announcements: None.

Adjournment: Motion made by Mr. Lawrence, seconded by Mr. Donely to adjourn the meeting, which passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 5:35 p.m.

Submitted By: Grace Mary Brady

Signed by: _____
Carol Moody, Chair

Date: Approved on November 17, 2011