

St. Mary's County, Maryland
HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION
August 27, 2015

Present: Teresa Wilson, Vice-Chair
Rob Gibbs, Member
Pete Himmelheber, Member
Eve Love, Member
Patricia Samford arrived at 4:15 p.m.

Grace Mary Brady, Staff
Linda Reno, Absent
Kent Randell, Absent

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; Jennifer Pitts, Religious Freedom National Scenic Byway Manager, Southern Maryland Heritage Area Consortium; and Carol Moody, special assignments to HPC.

Approval of Agenda:

Motion by Mr. Himmelheber, seconded by Mr. Gibbs to approve the Agenda as revised, which passed unanimously.

Approval of Minutes:

Motion by Mr. Himmelheber, seconded by Dr. Samford to approved the June 25, 2015 minutes, which passed unanimously.

Motion by Mr. Gibbs, seconded by Ms. Love to approve the July 23, 2015 minutes, which passed unanimously.

Reports

- 1) Staff Report
 - 53 customer service requests.
 - Four demolition requests this month.
 - Two tower site inspections.
 - Division staff meeting, TEC meeting (Westbury Manor), HPC meeting, CLG Grant Meetings.
 - Followed up on financial receipts requested by Maryland Historical Trust for Final Grant Report for 2014 Archaeology Grant Project. Submitted additional information request by Trust on electronic submissions.
 - Met with Terry Maxwell (SHA); Jim Klein (Landscape Architects, Alexandria, VA); Dr. Regina Faden (HSMC); Carolyn Laray (SMC Tourism); Carol Moody (HPC representative); Jennifer Pitts (Religious Freedom ByWay); and Roz Racanello (SMHAC) – work on 2 hour Maryland Scenic Byways Strategic Plan.
 - Report to Mary Owens on Newtowne Neck State Park Survey Results from Carol Moody, et al.
 - Meeting with Bill Hunt on a weekly basis to work on St. Mary's County Comprehensive Zoning Ordinance re-write Chapter 42: Historic Landmarks and Districts Overlay (H).
 - Spent almost an entire week scanning large reports (electronic copy donated to St. Mary's County Historical Society – more than 1,500 pages)
 - Spent 2 days with Mr. Pinckney – original Dynard Store Ledger from 1894 to 1899 – spent ½ day copying 300 page ledger and other items. Scanned and returned to owner – permission for county to keep copy and donate copy to St. Mary's County Historical Society. Evaluating house to add to inventory of historic places.
 - Still working with Vincent Turner, CSM Intern, majoring in history, on a weekly basis.
 - Sold more than \$600 worth of county books this month.

Old Business:

- 1) Report from Carol Moody – previous HPC member on Newtowne Neck Final Comments submitted to DNR.

Ms. Moody shared a copy of a letter written to Ms. Mary Owens, Chief of Planning, Department of Natural Resources, Maryland Park Service, containing the final comments (representative of her years of work with various stakeholders). (copy attached to minutes as a record). Kudos was expressed for her many years of meeting attendance on behalf of the Historic Preservation Commission.

2) Visit to St. Ignatius in Charles County – Rob Gibbs & Carol Moody.

Ms. Moody submitted a written report of the field trip to St. Ignatius in Charles County. (copy attached to minutes as a record).

New Business:

1) Update by Jennifer Pitts on Religious Freedom Byway.

Ms. Pitts prepared a power point presentation on the Religious Freedom National Scenic Byway. She covered the 189 mile spine (path) of the byway; shared photos of landscapes and waterways that were featured on the byway; and then talked about the various projects she was working on. Brochures, website, social media, interpretive strategy and what would be covered in a Phase One implementation. She talked about the role of the various stakeholders: churches, museums, parks, natural resource areas, tourism and cultural heritage organizations. She also spoke about the various Interpretive Themes that supported the byway: Maryland’s Beginnings; Native American Heritage; The Natural World and Change and Resilience.

In closing she talked about contracting with an interpretive planner to work with sites to develop content that tied together the applicable interpretive themes and site specific interpretive themes or goals. She indicated that any graphic designer that was hired would have to be familiar with the guidelines for use of NPS, National Scenic Byway, MHA, SMHAC logos on wayside interpretive media and develop a simple to use set of guidelines or user manual. Ms. Pitt’s presentation lasted one-half hour followed by fifteen minutes of various questions: (a) who was responsible for overseeing religious content to assure historic accuracy; (b) types of signs at the various sites; (c) assurances that text featured at the various churches would contain historic facts and not religious doctrine.

Ms. Pitts added that the first two test sites would be the 301 Crane Highway Visitors Center (Charles County) and the St. Clement’s Island Museum facility (St. Mary’s County). These sites will test the new sign designs.

2) Update on Zoning Ordinance – Bill Hunt, Deputy Director of LUGM

Mr. Hunt spoke about the current update on the Zoning Ordinance. He said that this was a great opportunity for the Historic Preservation Commission to help with the revisions of Chapter 42. He handed all of the members a list of definitions so that they would have time to be familiar with all the terms before the next meeting.

Items from the Floor:

Announcements:

Adjournment: Motion by Dr. Samford, seconded by Mr. Himmelheber to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 5:05 p.m.

Submitted By:

Signed by:

Grace Mary Brady

Linda Reno, Chair

Date: Approved on October 22, 2015