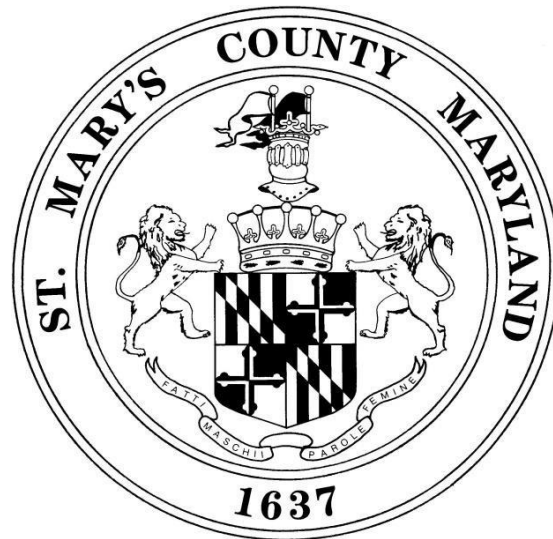


St. Mary's County Museum Division Board of Trustees



2022 Annual Report

Lynn Fitrell, President
Amy Davis, Vice President
Michael Blackwell, Secretary
Catherine Bowes
Michael Brown
John Deatrick
Regina Faden
Robin Finnacom
Laura Friess
Karla Langhus
Jeanette Pettit

Karen Stone, Director
Arthur Shepherd, Director, Parks & Recreation

January 9, 2023

INTRODUCTION

The St. Mary's County Museum Division Board of Trustees (MDT) Board is an eleven (11) member group appointed by the Commissioners of St. Mary's County (CSMC) to "promote through the establishment and maintenance of a Museum and allied projects, programs which will bring about a better understanding and appreciation by the community of history, art, and the sciences indigenous to its area." The Trustees serve in an advisory and not a governing role. We ask questions and provide a public voice on Museum Activities. Museum Board of Trustees meetings are normally held on the second Monday of every other month, beginning in January, at 8:45 a.m. in Room 14 inside the Potomac Building, 23115 Leonard Hall Drive, Leonardtown, MD. Normally one meeting a year takes place at the Piney Point Museum and Lighthouse and another at the St. Clements Island Museum, but planned renovation/construction at St. Clements may change that pattern in the near future.

In 2022, the Museum Division consisted of four sites: St. Clements Island Museum; Piney Point Lighthouse Museum and Historic Park; the Drayden African American Schoolhouse; the Old Jail Museum in Leonardtown.

Board Membership

2022 saw two changes in membership. Walter Boswell resigned from the Board in July; John Deatrick was appointed. Lynn Fitrell, Amy Davis, and Michael Blackwell continued in their roles as President, Vice President and Secretary for the year. In November officers for 2023 were elected as follows: Laura Friess, President, Michael Brown as Vice President and Michael Blackwell as Secretary.

SIGNIFICANT ACTIVITIES AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF THE MUSEUM DIVISION FOR 2022 ON WHICH THE BOARD ADVISED AND BOARD OPERATIONS

- Strategic Plan: Karla Langhus, Laura Friess, and Karen Stone with considerable input from other Board members, finished work on a new Museum Division Strategic Plan and presented it to the Board in September. Several objectives from the previous plan have been accomplished and were removed, and new goals and objective were developed. The plan was unanimously approved in September
- One important project the Board is excited to continue assisting with is replacing the current St. Clements building with a new two-story building. The Board has seen the plans as they develop and provided thoughts. The project is progressing well. Plans for the new building were sent to the Planning and Zoning Committee, where they were approved. The plans were approved verbally by Maryland DNR. Demolition and building may start in January.

- Lynn Fitrell worked on a Memo to the County Commissioners, providing the Board's recommendations for the Museum Division's FY24 budget. The budget will be considered in Spring of 2023 and put in place in July of 2023. The Board has approved this memo, which makes recommendations for making some part-time positions full-time and adding a larger boat to ferry visitors to St. Clements Island, Piney Point and other waterside areas throughout the County.
- Helped promote the museum activities in the community and volunteered for service at 2022 events.

Activities for 2023/Plans for the Future

- The Board's Bylaws are ten years old and in need of review and possible updating.
- As possible, attend budget hearings to indicate support for the division in the process.
- Support Museum activities as appropriate.
- Follow and advise on building plans for the St. Clements Island Museum.