

St. Mary's County, Maryland
HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION
Minutes of the meeting held on
December 15, 2011

Present: Carol Moody, Chair
Mary Farrar, Member
Scott Lawrence, Member
Mike Smolek, Member
Grace Mary Brady, Staff
George Donely, Absent
Rob Gibbs, Absent
Ruth Mitchell, Absent

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

Recognition of Guests: George Matisick, William Nickerson, Shirley Nickerson, Ronald Delahay, Lynn Delahay, Father Brian Sanderfoot, Sanford Brooks, Lauren Morgan, Frankie Tippet, Claire DeLozier, Bob Schaller.

Approval of Agenda: Motion by Mr. Lawrence, seconded by Mr. Smolek to approve the Agenda as submitted. Motion passed unanimously.

Approval of Minutes: Motion by Ms. Farrar, seconded by Mr. Smolek to approve the November 17, 2011 minutes as presented. Motion passed unanimously.

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

- Handled 27 customer service requests.
- One demolition request.
- TEC meeting – 2 items – no submittals required historic review .
- 375 Anniversary Sheriff Book work continues with Linda Reno, Tyler Mattingly, Cindy Allen and I. Cindy, Tyler and I went to Maryland State Archives on December 29th to verify the last Sheriff Commissions. We found another NEW Sheriff.....Mr. Fenwick. Research continues.
- Joe Norris delivered draft of first two illustrations for the War of 1812 pamphlet. One depicted the mass exodus from St. George's Island when the British invaded and the other is an illustration of the British using Christ Episcopal Church in Chaptico for a stable and encampment. He will finalize and bring to me the first of the year.
- Sent background information on the Dameron House to Jennifer Keats Curtis, Editor at Large for Maryland Life Magazine, for the 2012 Most Endangered List.
- Work is finished 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.
- Lecture on Tuesday, December 6, 2011 featuring Dr. Riordan, Ruth Mitchell and Scott Lawrence. There were 41 attendees
- War of 1812 meeting scheduled with Kenneth Cohen, Ph.D., Asst. Professor of History at St. Mary's College. Professor is proposing that students create a web site for Southern Maryland events. (December 16, 2011)
- Promote the County book for Christmas Gifts. Took extra books to Fenwick book store, Zimmerman's and Cecil's Mill Country Store.

Old Business:

1) HPC Lecture Series – Ruth Mitchell & Scott Lawrence, December 6, 2011

There was general discussion about the success of the lecture (41 attendees). Topics were suggested for lectures in 2012. Ms. Brady offered to contact Dr. Eshelman and Dr. King to find out if it was possible to have Dr. Eshelman provide a lecture on the War of 1812 at the college. Ms. Moody offered to contact Dr.

Gottfried and ask him to provide a lecture pertaining to the Civil War. It was further suggested that this lecture be offered in conjunction with the St. Mary's County Historical Society.

2) Newtowne Neck – discussion

Father Sanderfoot asked if the letter had been written by the archaeologists on the Commission. Mr. Smolek apologized and stated that Ms. Mitchell was out of town for the holidays and that they would convene after the first of the year to compose the letter.

Mr. Smolek spoke about the archaeology potential of Newtowne Neck; he indicated that the Catholic Church had paid for the stone revetment; he spoke about how important it was to maintain vistas; he talked about the program that the Federal money had come from and offered to find out its budget parameters. The visitors asked Mr. Smolek a variety of questions:

Shirley Nickerson wanted to know if it was possible to simply leave Newtowne Neck alone; simply leave it as it exists today; George Matisick thought it might be a good idea to feature 'ghost structures' similar to those that were built at Historic St. Mary's City – he also thought that the most passive forms of recreation opportunities should be provided at Newtowne Neck leaving it as it appeared in the 1600's – he also mentioned handicapped access to the goose blinds; William Nickerson suggested that the site be interpreted as it existed in the 1600's; Claire Delozier expressed concerns about the increase in traffic and the narrowness of the road (safety issues); Lynn Delahay doesn't want any of the Neck developed – she felt the history of the Jesuits needed to be preserved – she also wanted someone to get the information about the federal grant; Mr. Bowles talked about the need to maintain Agriculture interests; Lauren Morgan liked the idea of historic districts; Father Sanderfoot talked about the ability to participate in a Section 106 Consultation.

Mr. Smolek answered most of the questions.

New Business:

1) Election of New Officers

Motion by Mr. Smolek, second by Ms. Farrar to nominate Carol Moody as Chair for another term. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion by Mr. Smolek, second by Ms. Farrar to nominate Scott Lawrence as Vice-Chair for another term. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion by Mr. Smolek, second by Mr. Lawrence to nominate Mary Farrar as Secretary for one year. Note: This position was previously vacant.

2) 2012 Annual Historic Preservation Awards

Ms. Brady handed members a list of previous award recipients along with the nomination form used in preceding years. There was some general discussion about the award categories and the number of awards given in earlier years.

Motion by Mr. Smolek, seconded by Mr. Lawrence to limit the number of awards given each year to one (1) lifetime award; three (3) service awards; and three (3) project awards. Motion passed unanimously.

3) Mission suggestion – George Donely

Item was deferred due to Mr. Donely's absence from meeting.

Items from the floor: Commission members were excited about Dr. Jamie Boyd's book on Ocean Hall. Ms. Brady shared with the Commission the various locations where Dr. Boyd's book could be purchased.

Announcements: Mr. Smolek offered to have the April meeting as a site visit to Patuxent Naval Air Station (PAX). Commission members agreed and will wait to hear back from Mr. Smolek as to procedure and time.

Adjournment: Motion made by Mr. Lawrence, seconded by Ms. Farrar to adjourn the meeting, which passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 5:40 p.m.

Submitted By: Grace Mary Brady

Signed by: _____

Carol Moody, Chair

Date: Approved on January 26, 2011