

**St. Mary's County, Maryland**  
**HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION**

Minutes of the meeting held on May 21, 2009 at the  
Department of Land Use and Growth Management

**Present:** Rob Gibbs, Chair, Excused  
Ruth Mitchell, Excused  
Hal Willard, Member  
Victor Govier, Member  
Mary Hayden, Vice-Chair  
Susan Erichsen, Member

Grace Mary Brady, Staff

**Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 4:15 p.m. Mary Hayden, Vice-Chair, conducted the roll call and established that a quorum was present. Commission requirements were read for the record.

**Guests:** None.

**Agenda:** Motion by Susan Erichsen, seconded by Hal Willard to accept the Agenda as presented, which passed unanimously.

**Approval of Minutes:** No minutes to approve since there wasn't a meeting in April.

**Reports:**

**Graveyard project** – report from Grace Mary Brady on two cemetery locations. Grace Brady, Rob Gibbs and Scott Lawrence had investigated a cemetery site reported by a concerned neighbor in the Golden Beach area. Upon preliminary investigation, site believed to be Chesley's Hill and possible cemetery of John Chesley who died December 5, 1767. Staff reported that she and Mr. Lawrence would be evaluating this site the first week in June and would report findings to Committee.

Other location in Leonardtown to be investigated the beginning of June by staff and findings to be reported at next HPC meeting.

**Religious Freedom Byway** – report from Ms. Brady that a job description had been written to hire a contract person for a period of one year. Position is to be advertised in all 3 counties and direct supervision will be provided by Charles County preservation planner position. Additional staff oversight and direction provided by St. Mary's County Historic Preservation Planner II and the Executive Director for the Southern Maryland Heritage Area Consortium. Grant funds allocated for this one-year position will be managed by Southern Maryland Heritage Consortium.

**Discussion of possible inclusion of professionals from local historic sites** - Staff reported that a press release had been issued regarding the vacancies on the historic preservation commission. It was also noted that Susan Erichsen and Ruth Mitchell had requested re-appointment. A new application had been received from Scott Lawrence.

**Historic Preservation Awards 2009 Committee report** – Staff reported that the nomination forms for historic preservation awards had been posted on the county's web site and distributed to the Historical Society, press and libraries. Staff also indicated that Mr. Gibbs had several candidates that he wanted the committee to consider so Ms. Brady briefed the committee in his absence. Mr. Willard discussed the possibility of nominating the "Old Jail" for an award. *Note: nominations can be made until June 30, 2009.*

**Additional Staff Reports:**

1. Demolition Requests: Staff reported that there had been 3 demolition requests the previous month. (a) 1877 home located at 42155 Medley's Neck Road in Leonardtown; (b) 1928 cottage, 45041 Locust Street in Piney Point; and (c) 1945 home, 38231 New Market Turner Road in Mechanicsville. The Committee members reviewed the photos and permit requests staff provided.

2. Technical Evaluation Committee: TEC update from May 9<sup>th</sup> meeting. Staff reported that the bulk of the TEC meeting was mining operations and school portables. No historical sites that she was aware of.

3. Barns – 2 different projects: Barn local nomination: Staff reported that she had written a consent letter which all 5 County Commissioners had signed. This letter supported Preservation Maryland request for a \$50,000 grant for a book to document barns in Anne Arundel, Calvert, Charles, Prince George's and St. Mary's Counties.

Barn National Register of Historic Places Multiple Property Documentation: Staff reported that she met with the architectural historians from TEC, Inc. and assisted in the documentation of the 2 barn sites in St. Mary's County; one known as the De la Brooke barn, the other known as the Bond/Simms barn at Greenwell State Park. Staff reported that Chairman Gibbs had visited the Bond/Simms site and met the visiting architect historians from Ohio.

4. I'm Goin Down County: Staff presented the Committee with a status report on Kirk Ranzetta's book. Mr. Ranzetta indicated via e-mail that the Historic Trust had the pictures he had used for the book and that he had contacted Melissa to let her know that we needed to have the photos returned to this office. Staff also talked about the procurement and bid process and noted that A Scope of Work for Book Printing Services had been submitted to the procurement office. Ms. Brady anticipated a goal of October, 2009 for delivery of the final product.

5. Historic Roads: Staff reported that a sum of \$12,000 had been requested in this year's 2010 budget. There would not be an opportunity to apply for a grant to complete the final phase of the Historic Roads project without the approval of this sum in the final budget. In order to qualify to apply for a grant with the Maryland Historic Trust, funds had to be in the county budget at time of grant application. The time frame is: Letter of Intent in December, 2008 and grant application due in February, 2010.

6. Story Core project (based out of New York) – 30 oral histories – 10 individuals selected from each county. Staff reported that she had talked with Vicky Falcon, public relations consultant for Story Core. The oral histories were being taped at the Southern Maryland Regional Library in Charlotte Hall. Susan Erichsen suggested that if any of the current 10 participants were unable to participate, contact Agnes Bean.

7. Preservation Maryland: Mr. Gibbs had requested that staff obtain a list of Maryland Preservation Awardees. Staff presented the list to HPC members noting that St. John's Site Museum, at St. Mary's City, had been nominated for an award in Educational Excellence. Susan Erichsen and Ruth Mitchell were planning on attending the awards dinner Friday evening in Baltimore.

Grace Mary Brady, Susan Erichsen and Rob Gibbs were attending the entire conference. Also noted: Susan Wolfe, Executive Director of the St. Mary's County Historical Society, was also attending the conference. Ms. Brady also reported that requests for travel/training for this conference were not authorized yet.

8. St. Mary's County Historical Society Annual Dinner: Staff reported that she had attended the dinner. Also present were HPC members Hal Willard and Susan Erichsen.

9. Parlett Farm: Staff attended the first informational meeting to discuss the future of the Parlett Family Farm and the John K. Parlett Farm-Life Museum of Southern Maryland proposal on April 27, 2009. The next meeting is scheduled for June 26, 2009.

10. Back log: Staff talked about a back log of requests for consideration as a St. Mary's County site.

**Old Business:** Review of Commission's history and role was tabled to June's meeting. Rob Gibbs will be making the presentation.

**New Business:**

1. HPC 2008 Annual Report. Motion by Susan Erichsen, seconded by Victor Govier to approve the Historical Preservation Commission Annual Report as amended. Motion passed unanimously.
2. Preservation Conference in Baltimore – updated by staff report.
3. Historic Preservation Awards – updated by staff report. Further discussion to occur at June’s meeting with Mr. Gibbs input and Mr. Willard’s submission of “Old Jail” for an award.
4. Discussion of Membership in the HPC – members talked about previous applicants who had applied in 2008. The only viable application at this time is Scott Lawrence. The deadline to submit an application for appointment to the HPC is May 31<sup>st</sup>.

**Items from the floor** Victor Govier wanted to bring to the Committee’s attention various errors he had noted on historical markers – most particularly St. George’s Island should be St. George Island. He wanted to know the procedure for getting historical markers corrected. Susan Erichsen reviewed the entire process for commission members and Mr. Govier offered to follow up to get this marker corrected.

**Announcements** – Staff talked about the upcoming Comprehensive Plan public hearing scheduled for June 22, 2009.

**Adjournment** - Motion by Hal Willard, seconded by Susan Erichsen, which passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 5:45 p.m.

Submitted By: Grace Mary Brady

Signed by: \_\_\_\_\_  
Mary Hayden, Vice-Chair

Date: \_\_\_\_\_