

St. Mary's County, Maryland
HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

Minutes of the meeting held on July 23, 2009 at the
Department of Land Use and Growth Management

Present: Rob Gibbs, Chair
Victor Govier, Member
Scott Lawrence, Member
Carol Moody, Member
Ruth Mitchell, Member
Hal Willard, Member

Grace Mary Brady, Staff
Susan Erichsen, Absent

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 4:00 p.m. Mr. Gibbs called roll and confirmed that a quorum was present. Commission requirements were read for the record.

Guests: Derick Berlage, Director of Land Use and Growth Management (LUGM); Donna Gitt, Frank Tippett and Jeff Jackman, Principal Planner for LUGM

Agenda: Motion by Ruth Mitchell, second by Scott Lawrence to accept the agenda as presented. Motion passed unanimously.

Approval of Minutes: Motion by Hal Willard, second by Ruth Mitchell to approve the minutes of June 25, 2009 as amended. Motion passed unanimously.

Reports:

Graveyard project – no report.

Staff Reports:

1. Demolition Requests: **7 requested – 3 completed.** 1) 1920 house, 23960 Budds Creek Road, Clements, 20624. Demo & replace with new home – family conveyance. (2) 1945 cottage, 25001 Half Pone Point Road, Hollywood, 20636. Demo & replace with new home. (3) 1931 Texaco service station, 28293 Old Village Road, Mechanicsville. Demo – no replacement proposed.
2. Technical Evaluation Committee: **TEC Update – July 9th** 21 sites were reviewed – 3 required historic consideration. (1) **1947 structure**, 21374 Sanner's Lane, Lexington Park, minor site plan review for Rec & Park's golf center – no impact to house. House added to county data base. (2) **1800 house**, 20260 Poplar Ridge Road, Park Hall, Lot 1 Minor subdivision. House, numerous trailers, debris – no plans yet. House added to county data base. (3) **1945 house**, 17504 Piney Point Road, Piney Point, review of minor subdivision for lot 2 & BLAP. House added to county data base.
3. Religious Freedom Byway Management Plan – Still held up by lengthy process – needs to be approved by Charles County Administrator and then back to Human Resources for advertising.
4. I'm Goin Down County Mr. Ranzetta provided answers to procurements questions about number of illustrations in the proposed book. Staff reported that there would be approximately 70 illustrations and close to 525 photographs. Staff also thanked Linda Reno and Carol Moody for their time in editing several hundred capsule summaries.
5. Cemeteries. Staff indicated that Commissioner Mattingly had provided her with a list of slave names to add to the proposed cemetery data base for the county; various members of the Commission asked for copies.
6. Parlette Farm: A meeting was held on June 26th at 10 a.m. at 38250 New Market Turner Road, Charlotte Hall. Senator Mac Middleton, Delegate Johnny Wood, Delegate John Bohanan, representatives from the Smithsonian, College of Southern Maryland and various stakeholders attended (57 individuals in

attendance). A facilitator from the College of Southern Maryland divided the attendees into 'break-out' groups to ascertain various options and scenarios to flush out various options.

Old Business:

1. Review of Commission's history and role. Mr. Gibbs talked briefly about the role of the commission; possible amendments to by-laws and historic resources. He noted that an article had been mailed to members and that staff had provided CAMP binders and copies of Historic Resources for Smarties. He indicated that time would be spent at each meeting talking about the role of the Commission.

New Business:

1. Comprehensive Plan: Members reviewed **CONSERVATION AND UTILIZATION OF HISTORIC AND CULTURAL RESOURCES – GOALS, OBJECTIVES, POLICIES, ACTIONS AND MEASURES FOR SUCCESS**, Section 5.14. Members also reviewed the proposed letter to the Planning Commission, which contained various recommendations which address its concerns with the Comprehensive Plan.

Jeff Jackman, principal planner, answered various questions about the comprehensive plan from members. Hal Willard stated that this was the best proposal he had seen in a long time and that he was very pleased with the progress that had been made.

Mr. Gibbs agreed to testify before the Planning Commission at the July 27th meeting. Members were encouraged to attend.

2. Historic Preservation Awards Nomination: Mr. Gibbs recommended that a general discussion occur before the review and discussion of the nominations. He polled the members to see if decisions rendered needed to be a majority. The group agreed that all award approvals would be by a simple majority vote. Discussion also occurred about separating out the awards by project or service. The board decided to wait until they had selected the awardees and then make a decision on grouping various awardees together for their appearance before the Board of County Commissioners.

***Note for the record, Mr. Govier abstained from the awards voting. He was out of town during the June meeting.**

(a) Cecil's Mill waterwheel restoration. **Nominated:** J. Allan Cecil II, J. Allan Cecil III, Matthew D. Cecil. **Nominated by:** Kimberly S. Cecil. **For:** Restoration of water wheel, circa 1870, which is the only operational steel overshot double waterwheel left in the State of Maryland. Nominated for the best private and sustained effort award (majority yes vote).

(b) Drayden School and Point Lookout Lighthouse. **Nominated:** Christmas in April. **Nominated by:** Mary Ann Chasen. **For:** restoration & preservation of Drayden School and exterior work to the outside, front steps and fence of the Point Lookout Lighthouse. Nominated for a collective service award (majority yes vote).

(c) Jesuit Property in St. Mary's County. **Nominated:** Maryland Province Jesuits, Father Casciotti, S. J. Provincial, Maryland Province of the Society of Jesus and Myra Peabody Gossens, et al. **Nominated by:** Robert Gibbs. **For:** Protection of substantial acreage of ecologically important and culturally significant land – origin of Catholicism in the United States. Nominated for the preserving diverse natural and wildlife habitats; protecting the water quality of the Chesapeake Bay, providing public access to the Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail and conserving forest lands to provide a lasting legacy for future generations. Nominated for preservation award (majority yes vote).

(d) Lexington Manor History Project. **Nominated:** Hans Welch, Cynthia Delagatti, Dr. J. King, A. Bove et al. **Nominated by:** Karen Everett. **For:** Recording and preserving the history of the structures and people who lived in Lexington Manor from 1940 to 1990. Nominated for preservation award (majority no vote).

(e) Peter Rivers (artist). **Nominated:** Peter Rivers. **Nominated by:** Candace Cummings. **For:** Tirelessly building the “ghost” structure on the St. Mary’s College Campus and for being an excellent portrait artist.

Nominated for service award (majority no vote).

(f) St. Peter’s Chapel. **Nominated:** St. Peter’s Chapel. **Nominated by:** John Wilson. **For:** Excellence in the preservation and restoration of historic buildings, as well as best adaptive reuse of historic structure.

Nominated for preservation and best adaptive reuse award (majority yes vote).

(g) Dave Roberts. **Nominated:** David Roberts. **Nominated by:** Robert Gibbs **For:** Preservation of local history, work in inventorying various cemeteries and his Genealogical Society publication, Generator.

Nominator for community service award (majority yes vote).

(h) Jason Babcock. **Nominated:** Jason Babcock. **Nominated by:** Albert Babcock. **For:** Writing and researching articles for the local Historic Preservation Chronicle, speeches pertaining to historic topics and history articles published in the Enterprise.

Nominated for community service award (majority no vote).

For the record: During the review of the various award nominations, the board voted unanimously to continue its policy of not approving any awards for service and/or preservation to anyone who was paid to do some, or part of the project, as a task of their employment.

The Board also decided to modify the award nomination form next year to more clearly reflect its criteria for award consideration.

Additional decisions included spreading the award out during the months of September and October so as to not dilute the value of any one recipient for recognition. Staff to send letters to each person nominated for an award; letters to each person who nominated someone for an award and prepare the request for appointments before the Commissioners. Staff will also create logos for August meeting so that Board can consider an award that appears historic in nature and not the usual commercial type plaque.

3) CLG Annual Report approval. Staff reviewed the Maryland Certified Local Government Program Procedures Manual and the annual reporting requirements. Mr. Willard thanked staff indicating that the CLG ANNUAL REPORT was the best one he had ever read.

Mr. Gibbs talked about other certification requirements that members would need in the upcoming year. There was a lot of discussion about the possibility of having someone attend a board meeting for training the entire board at one time. Staff requested each board member to submit their credentials so that those qualifications could be added to the report.

Motion by Hal Willard, second by Ruth Mitchell to accept the St. Mary’s County Preservation Commission CLG Annual Report covering the time period from July 1, 2008 to June 30, 2009, as amended. Motion passed unanimously.

4) Discussion of vice-chair position. Mr. Gibbs talked about the need to elect someone to fill the vice-chair position. This item will be placed on the next meeting Agenda under new business as an action for election.

Items from the floor

Ruth Mitchell talked about scheduling a visit to Historic St. Mary’s City and Clocker’s Fancy in lieu of one of the meetings. The Board indicated their eagerness to make this trip during in September. Ms. Mitchell will advise at the next meeting.

Carol Moody asked staff additional questions about the draft Comprehensive Plan. Many of the members indicated a desire to participate in the process Monday, July 27, 2009.

Announcements – None

Adjournment - Motion by Ruth Mitchell, seconded by Scott Lawrence, which passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 5:45 p.m.

Submitted By: Grace Mary Brady

Signed by: _____
Robert Gibbs, Chair

Date: _____