

## HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

### Minutes of the meeting held on July 26, 2007 at the Department of Land Use and Growth Management

**Present:** Hal Willard, Chairman  
Jim Grusholt, Vice-Chairman  
Susan Erichsen, Member  
Bill Farrar, Member  
Rob Gibbs, Member  
Ruth Mitchell, Member  
Teresa Wilson LUGM Staff

**Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 4:00 p.m.

**Introduction of New Member:** Mr. Willard introduced Susan Erichsen who has been appointed to serve out the term of Danny Johnson who resigned in May. He asked Ms. Erichsen give a brief summary of her background. Ms. Erichsen noted that she lives in Leonardtown and has served on the Town Commission and Planning Board. She has worked at the St. Mary's County Historical Society for five years, and for the Greenwell Foundation. Before moving to St. Mary's County she was a land use planner in Alexandria, Virginia. Currently she is enrolled in the University of Maryland's online degree program pursuing a degree in history.

**Review of TEC August Agenda Item 16: #07-1100089 John Bean Minor Subdivision:** Ms. Wilson stated that the HPC would from this date review all Technical Evaluation Committee Agenda Items that pertain to historic resources. The HPC examined the map provided by staff and the site plan. Ms. Wilson indicated that she felt there would be no visual impact on SM-482, the George E. Coombs House, from the proposed development of lot four as indicated on the site plan, since the lot is about one half mile from the historic resource. The total acreage of the parcel is 96.7 acres. The HPC agreed with her finding and directed her to prepare a comment to that effect.

A discussion of the role of the HPC in protecting historic resources followed. The main points are listed as follows:

- The HPC needs to develop a database map on archaeological sites as recommended by MHT terrestrial archaeologist Charles Hall in his talk to the HPC.
- The database of historic sites also needs to be updated.
- With these databases in place the HPC will be better able to comment on all historic resources.
- The HPC needs to develop a methodology for examining historic resources using these databases.
- The HPC need a set of protocols to follow when historic resources could be negatively impacted.
- Funding for expert advice about archaeological sites should be requested when the archaeological sites map is available.
- An ordinance protecting archaeological sites need to be proposed, as well as amendments to the Zoning Ordinance requiring investigation of potential archaeological resources on land proposed for development, if the consultant archaeologist indicates a high probability that resources are present.
- The HPC also needs to create a list of work items to take up in meetings and possibly assign these to small member groups.

**Cemetery Database Next Steps:** This item was tabled until next month's meeting.

**TV Spot on Historic Designation:** Mr. Farrar and Ms. Wilson reported that the filming for the TV informational spot about historic designation is complete. Ms. Amy Carter, the audio-visual technician will edit the spot and hopes to have it air on Channel 95 by the end of August.

**Update on Certified Local Government Grant Phase II Historic Roads Survey:** Ms. Wilson informed the HPC that St. Mary's County is receiving the grant and that the contract will be presented to the Board of County Commissioners at their August 7<sup>th</sup> meeting. She also noted that Land Use and Growth Management is preparing two approaches to protecting historic roads that will be discussed with Planning Director Denis Canavan. Once a decision is made on which approach is best, the text will be sent for legal review and then proceed through the public hearing process.

**Religious Freedom Scenic Byway Public Meeting:** The meeting to obtain input from citizens and inform them of the Byway corridor management plan process will take place in the Charlotte Hall Library July 31, 2007 from 6-8 p.m.  
HPC members are urged to attend if they can.

**Items from the Floor:**

Mr. Willard suggested the HPC have badges to identify them if they visited historic sites that came up on the TEC. After some discussion members thought that their current ID badges would serve this purpose.

Members also asked if some of their concerns about preservation issues could be discussed with the Maryland Historical Trust. Ms. Wilson mentioned that the new director of the Maryland Association of Historic District Commissions will be making visits to HPCs around the state to discuss their programs, and that she would contact MAHDC to schedule a visit.

**Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 6:00 p.m.

Submitted by: \_\_\_\_\_ Signed by: \_\_\_\_\_