

HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

Minutes of the meeting held on August 23, 2007 at the Department of Land Use and Growth Management

Present: Hal Willard, Chairman
Jim Grusholt, Vice-Chairman
Mary Hayden, Member
Ruth Mitchell, Member
Teresa Wilson, LUGM Staff

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

Approval of Minutes: The minutes of the June 26, 2007 were approved as submitted.

Next Steps in Cemetery Research

Ms. Wilson reported that she still has to find the Tax Map locations of many cemeteries. She plans a visit to the Historical Society to talk with staff there about the locations of cemeteries on the list that have only owner names associated with them. She is hoping that with more information she will be able to determine the exact locations. Ms. Mitchell reminded the members that member Susan Erichsen had mentioned that there may be files there that the HPC has not seen. Ms. Mitchell said that she and Rob Gibbs would meet with Ms. Wilson after her work at the Historical Society to discuss means of locating the remaining cemeteries. It may be necessary to conduct field work and interviews to find them.

Selection of Roads for Phase II Survey

The HPC looked at the list of potential roads for the Phase II survey to discuss which ones were of the highest priority. Ms. Wilson and Peter Himmelheber, who has conducted extensive research on land grants and road, met earlier to examine the list and rank the roads. The HPC noted that their assessment differs on several roads. They would like to elevate Cornfield Harbor Road and Notley Hall Road to first priority and change Maypole Road to a lesser priority. They also noted that the roads leading to former wharfs could be considered important as early transportation routes. Ms. Mitchell noted that Rosecroft Road lies within the boundaries of Historic St. Mary's City and is protected by a number of easements, so that it is much less 'at risk' than other roads which should be considered first.

Fall Public Program

The HPC had earlier discussed presenting a program about archaeology and its relationship to historic preservation and land use planning. Ms. Mitchell said that she had contacted Don Creveling, an archaeologist with the Maryland National Capital Parks and Planning Department who agreed to be a presenter. He suggested also inviting Jennifer Stabler, an archeologist with Prince George's County who conducts reviews of subdivision plans. The tentative date for the program is October 25th. Ms. Wilson will inquire about using the auditorium on the St. Mary's campus of the College of Southern Maryland. The members agreed that a good publicity campaign should be developed and the Land Use Planning staff, the Planning Commission, and County Commissioners be invited.

September TEC Items

Coburns Minor Subdivision: 07-110-115. The HPC reviewed the plans for a family subdivision of this property which contains the historic Coburns Wharf Farm, SM-772. They unanimously concluded that the construction of homes on lots adjacent to the farmhouse would not seriously compromise its remaining integrity.

Guazzo One Lot Minor Subdivision 07-110-118. After examining the plans for a family subdivision on historic Willow Glen, SM-198, the HPC concluded that construction on the new lot would be sufficiently distant from the historic house as to have no negative impact.

Fairview Farm Workforce House/Grandview Haven Phase II 07-131-033. The HPC looked at the plans for this project on which the historic farmhouse, SM-864 Fair Hill Farm is located. Members commented that the lot containing the farmhouse has many large trees and plantings which will screen it somewhat from the development planned around it. They looked at the setback on Route 5 which is required to be 50 feet because the road is classified as a major arterial. After a discussion most of the members felt that recommending some additional plantings along Route 5 would further screen the development from motorists traveling in this county-designated scenic corridor.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 5:30 p.m.

Submitted by: _____ Signed by: _____