

## HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

### Minutes of the meeting held on November 18, 2004 at the Department of Land Use and Growth Management

**Members Present:** Hal Willard, Vice Chairman  
Mary Hayden, Member  
Margaret Padukiewicz, Member  
Jack Williamson, 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 October 28, 2004 meeting were approved as written.

#### **First Application for Local Historic Landmark Designation**

Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Dick have submitted an application requesting that their property, St. Michael's Manor in Scotland, be designated a Local Historic Landmark. Because they winter in Florida, Ms. Wilson will contact them December 15th and suggest that the designation process be initiated when they return to Maryland. The process involves public hearings that require their participation, so a delay until they return would be the most practical approach.

#### **Maryland Historical Trust Grant Applications**

The Board of County Commissioners approved both grant applications. The Educational Sub-Grant would provide funding for Historic Preservation Commission members to attend the annual Preservation and Restoration Conference which will be held in May 2006 in Baltimore.

The Certified Local Government Grant, if awarded, will fund the creation of a historic context document that will provide a history of road development in St. Mary's County as well as establish criteria for determining what roads retain historic integrity. A preliminary survey of roads in the County will also be conducted to identify those that fit the historic criteria. The project will also make suggestions for measures to protect identified historic roads. A contractor will be hired to produce the historic context and roads survey. MHT has suggested that the Department of Land Use and Growth Management send out a Request for Qualifications to obtain information about possible contractors who could execute the Historic Roads Context and Roads Survey. If St. Mary's is awarded the grant, it would then have a pool of qualified firms to which Requests for Proposals could be sent.

#### **Scenic Byways Update**

Preservation Planner Teresa Wilson met with Planning Director Denis Canavan and Senior Planner Jeff Jackman, who directed her to prepare to present the Scenic Byways Grant Application to the Board of County Commissioners.

Fact Summary:

The grant would fund the creation of a Corridor Management Plan for the Religious Freedom Scenic Byway that St. Mary's shares with Charles County. Public hearing will be held during the process to obtain citizen input at all stages. Each county must provide \$21,000 for a total of \$42,000. The State Highway Administration will provide \$150,400 for a total of \$192,400. The Saint Mary's County Commissioners will be asked to provide a letter of support. Planning Director Denis Canavan will inform the Commissioners that the \$21,000 matching funds will be requested in the FY 2006 planning budget. If the County Commissioners approve the letter it will be included in the grant application which is due at the State Highway Administration by December 31, 2004.

#### **December HPC Meeting**

The Historic Preservation Commission set December 16, 2004 as the date for its next meeting.

#### **Items from the Floor**

Ms. Wilson informed the HPC that the Preserve America Communities application was approved by the Board of County Commissioners. If St. Mary's is granted the honorary designation, it receives the right to use the Preserve America Communities logo on its tourism and historic publications and would become eligible for grant funding in the future.

Ms. Wilson presented a summary of State Highway Administration findings of "no effect" on SM-581 Glebe School for a

pass-by lane on St. Andrew's Church Road. SHA's staff architectural historian stated that Glebe School has been significantly altered, greatly decreasing its integrity, and that it is not eligible for the National Register. The HPC is asked to participate in the Section 106 process by sending a letter to the State Highway Administration stating whether or not it concurs with the report. The HPC examined the report and directed Ms. Wilson to draft a letter stating that it agrees that the project will have "no effect".

Mr. Williamson stated that he met couple at an antique fair who said they were considering purchasing a historic house in St. Mary's County but decided not to because of the **mandatory** design guidelines. The HPC and Ms. Wilson agreed that more public education about the guidelines will be necessary to make clear that the design guidelines are **voluntary**. Ms. Wilson plans to send copies of the guidelines to realtors with an explanation to ensure that they provide correct information to prospective buyers of historic property.

Ms. Wilson summarized the November 15th Tobacco Barn Summit and told the HPC that they would be receiving a copy of the measures proposed to preserve the barns. HPC members discussed the alternative crops being developed to replace tobacco. Ms. Wilson mentioned that some of the next steps will be to establish funding for repair of the barns and to hold some barn repair workshops in Southern Maryland.

Ms. Padukiewicz announced that on November 21<sup>st</sup> Dr. John Krugler will lecture on his book, *English and Catholic: the Lords Baltimore in the Seventeenth Century*, at 7:00 p.m. in the HSCM auditorium. On December 1<sup>st</sup> HSCM will present a free Community Holiday Concert featuring the St. Mary's Musica performing its madrigal repertoire at 7:00 p.m. in the State House.

The HPC and Ms. Wilson will send a card to member Jim Grusholt who is recuperating from surgery.

**Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 5:10 p.m.

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