

HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

Minutes of the Meeting held on December 15, 2005 at the Department of Land Use and Growth Management

Members Present: Peter Himmelheber, Chairman
Harold Willard, Vice-Chairman
Robert Gibbs, Member
James Grusholt, Member
Mary Hayden, 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 November 17, 2005 meeting were approved as written.

Meeting Dates for 2006: The meeting dates for the Historic Preservation Commission in 2006 will be January 26, February 23, March 23, April 27, May 25, June 22, July 27, August 24, September 28, October 26, November 16, and December 14.

HPC Budget for 2007

Advertising and Legal: The HPC looked over the 2006 budget and discussed what changes they might request in the way the HPC's funds are allocated . Money was budgeted for advertising and legal advertising in 2006 but was not used for the legal notices that were placed for the public hearings for the St. Michael's Manor designation. Members thought that less money should be placed in the advertising category. Several members thought that the HPC should place paid advertisements in the *Enterprise* for the upcoming Renovator's Roundtable. Ms Wilson agreed that such an ad, either as a one-time announcement or as separate ads for each presentation, might increase attendance. She said that she would obtain pricing information for the paper. Mr. Willard suggested that information about the Renovators program be sent to SMECO for placement in their bulletin. Mr. Grusholt suggested placing ads in the STS buses.

Other Contract Services: Mr. Gibbs suggested that it would be practical to request that more funds go into Other Contract Services so that the HPC could use its funding more easily, for example for printing forms for the planned cemetery project and other efforts. Ms. Wilson said she would obtain information from the fiscal secretary about the types of expenditures allowed from that line item.

Printing and Binding : in 2006, the money in this line was not used because the 2005 grant application was not funded. Mr. Himmelheber asked if this money could be used for Kirk Ranzetta's forthcoming book. Ms. Wilson informed him that the Phase 8 grant contains funds for printing the book, but that the money in the 2006 budget may be tapped for printing additional copies. She said that she would check with the LUGM fiscal specialist.

Other lines: Ms. Wilson noted that the HPC currently maintains memberships in the Maryland Association of Historic District Commissions, the National Trust for Historic Preservation, the National Alliance of Historic Preservation Commissions, and Preservation Maryland. Most of these memberships are renewed at the end of each calendar year. She noted that the membership in the state archaeological association had expired and asked the members to consider rejoining. Ms. Wilson will take the HPC members' suggestions to discussions with Jeff Jackman, who prepares the budget requests for the Comprehensive Planning Division.

Certified Local Government Scenic and Historic Roads Grant

Ms. Wilson reported that the grant contract was signed and the contractor, History Matters, has begun preparing the research design. She noted that she mailed them the chapter from Regina

Hammett's History of St. Mary's County that discusses the history of the road system because the documentation is very thorough, and may save the contract time at the Archives. Because of the late start with the grant, Ms. Wilson has been asked to conduct a preliminary survey of roads that would meet the criteria for documentation as scenic/historic roads. She asked the HPC to name roads they know of that are particularly scenic. Mr. Gibbs suggested Cedar Lane and Blacksmith Shop Roads. Mr. Himmelheber said that he would provide a copy of the article he wrote for the St. Mary's County Historical Society about early Saint Mary's County Roads. Ms. Wilson invited the members to accompany her on some of this preliminary survey work and/or provide suggestions as the work continues.

Roads that have been looked at in the preliminary survey so far:
Route 6 from the Charles County line to where it joins Rt. 235 in Mechanicsville, the Sotterley Road, Steer Horn Neck Road.

Saint Inigoes School

Ms. Wilson noted that the condition of the roof on the school was very bad. She asked the HPC whether requesting that a tarp be attached to keep rain out would be a practical suggestion. The members thought that the damage was too extensive for a tarp to be of much use. Ms. Wilson said that she would check on the school periodically.

Items from the Floor

Mr. Himmelheber informed the HPC that there might be a number of previously undocumented cemeteries for next year's project. He has spoken to Dr. Guyther who knows of several in Mechanicsville, and the historical society has received questions about graves located on the Kirk House property in Scotland.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 5:10 p.m.

Submitted by: _____ Signed by:
