

St. Mary's County, Maryland
HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

Minutes of the meeting held on
June 24, 2010

Present: Rob Gibbs, Chair
Carol Moody, Vice Chair
Susan Erichsen, Member
Victor Govier, Member
Scott Lawrence, Member
Ruth Mitchell, Member
Hal Willard, Member
Grace Mary Brady, Staff

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

Roll call and confirmation of quorum: Mr. Gibbs called roll and confirmed that a quorum was present.

Commission requirements read for the record: Commission requirements were read for the record by Mr. Gibbs.

Recognition of Guests: David Weiskoff

Approval of Agenda: Motion by Mr. Willard, seconded by Mr. Lawrence to accept the Agenda as presented. Motion passed unanimously.

Approval of Minutes: Motion by Ms. Mitchell, seconded by Ms. Erichsen to approve the April 22, 2010 Minutes. Motion passed unanimously.

New Business Item discussed out of order to accommodate schedule of the deputy county attorney.

Under New Business, David Weiskoff was asked to give his opinion on various questions from the cemetery committee.

Mr. Weiskoff presented each Commission member with copies of the Annotated Code of Maryland, MD Read Property Code @ 14-121 and 14-122 pertaining to access to burial sites; definitions of burial sites; cultural affiliation and who a person in interest was. Mr. Weiskoff informed members that permission was required to enter an individual's property to verify cemetery information. He also advised that each member should identify themselves as being affiliated with the Historic Preservation Commission. Mr. Weiskoff recommended that the cemetery subcommittee of the Historic Preservation Commission prepare a formal document that the property owner would sign granting permission to access to burial sites. Mr. Gibbs asked if the subcommittee represented the Historic Preservation Commission. Mr. Weiskoff said that the subcommittee was a part of the Historic Preservation Commission and suggested that it might appear disingenuous not to tell the property owner up front what the purpose and intent of the visit was.

Ms. Erichsen talked about possible educational opportunities and several commission members thought it might be fun to have an event this fall, over Halloween weekend, to promote the preservation of cemeteries. Staff was asked to see if the Commissioner's hearing room might be available sometime between October 25th and October 29th.

- **Note – the next item was not reflected on the Agenda. Mr. Gibbs wanted to ask the Deputy County Attorney some zoning ordinance questions. Discussion of this item lasted for 40 minutes.**

Mr. Gibbs expressed his displeasure at having a Comprehensive Plan that doesn't offer any authority or power to help the Historic Preservation Commission with its mission. He talked about his previous

meetings with the Deputy County Attorney, Jeff Jackman and Grace Mary Brady concerning Zoning Ordinance requests that he proposed. He restated the issues again:

Mr. Gibbs referred to a rough draft of a proposal that he wrote to highlight the ingredients of an ordinance that would require an archaeological review as part of a building permit request. This draft mirrored the key features of the ordinances now in place for Prince Georges and Anne Arundel counties. No staff position need be created due to the available resources Historic St. Mary's City, St. Mary's College and Jefferson-Patterson to review all site plan applications. A study would be needed to determine costs to applicants.

Ms. Brady reminded Commission members that a hiring freeze remained in place for county positions; that there were no extra funds for consultant fees or additional positions; and that Mr. Jackman, Mr. Weiskoff and she had already let the Committee Chair know that these proposed Ordinances could not be considered at this time. Ms. Brady also reminded the Commission that they were appointed as an advisory board to the Board of County Commissioners.

Mr. Lawrence and Ms. Moody asked to see the draft language proposed by Mr. Gibbs. Mr. Lawrence and Ms. Mitchell talked about the protection afforded to cemeteries under State statute. They supported Mr. Gibbs recommendations contained in his zoning ordinance proposal.

The members talked about what could be done to help preserve the history of St. Mary's County.

Ms. Erichsen felt that accomplishments had been made. She pointed to the language in the new Comprehensive Plan applauding the additional language geared to historic preservation. Staff provided members of the Commission with a copy of the new Comprehensive Plan language. Ms. Erichsen talked about other jurisdictions that re-zone property piece by piece to guarantee protection of the area. She reiterated the newly adopted Comprehensive Plan as a positive thing for protecting historic resources.

Ms. Moody was going out of town and wanted to read Mr. Gibbs proposals in its entirety.

Mr. Gibbs stated that even if the Department of Land Use and Growth Management did not support the proposed Zoning Ordinance that they could still take their proposals to the Board of County Commissioners. He asked Mr. Weiskoff if he could help with that.

Reports: Historic Preservation (Grace Mary Brady, Historic Preservation Planner II)

Staff presented two separate reports; one for the month of May, and one for the month of June, 2010.

May, 2010

- Presentation to BOCC, Historic Preservation Awards, more than 17 individuals and Entities received awards during Preservation Month (total of 8 selections selected by HPC for preservation and/or service awards).
- Marketed Ranzetta book everyday; press releases and flyers for Book signing by author on May 24.
- Met w/Nicole Diehlmann and Marcia Miller from MD Historic Trust on May 24 to resolve some of the remaining photo ownership issues from Ranzetta book. (still pending)
- 12 Demolitions during month of May.
- Worked with Jeff and other county AICP representatives to finalize presenters for the upcoming Planning Conference scheduled for July 14, 2010.
- Handled 136 customer service requests (mostly book sales and book signing inquiries).
- Represented St. Mary's County War of 1812 Committee at last meeting with ERM in Annapolis on May 17, 2010. The meeting was for all Southern Maryland groups and we prioritized several sites for National Water Trail.
- War of 1812 meeting on May 26th with entire Committee. Updated Committee on ERM meeting; Carol Moody presented update from Preservation Conference on War of 1812 projects; and Pete

Himmelheber gave a power point presentation on new primary source documentation obtained from a Ship Captain's log.

- Took book delivery of last 2,000 books from publisher on May 28th and sent paperwork to Finance to meet grant deadline of May 31st.

June, 2010

- 7 Demolitions during month of June.
- Worked with Jeff on a check list of final arrangements for the conference, created flyer for conference, working on goody bags for the upcoming Planning Conference scheduled for July 14, 2010.
- Handled 86 customer service requests (mostly book sales inquiries).
- War of 1812 meeting on June 17th with entire Committee. Worked with Tourism on long range strategic planning.
- Sales of Ranzetta book still going well – promoted for Father's Day gift. Donated a book to Leonardtown for Leonardtown Beach Party to be held on August 7th and donated a book to Recreation & Parks for golf course fundraiser event (flyers promoting county book to be handed out at both events).
- Met with Preservation Maryland, Maryland Historic Trust, So. MD. Heritage Area Consortium, stakeholders from 5 counties on June 16th to work on follow-up report from Southern Maryland Barn Summit that was held on April 30th.
- Met with J. C. Sharpe who is documenting tobacco barns in St. Mary's County and also obtaining oral histories to match the various barns.
- Wrote Annual CLG Report for Historic Preservation Commission.
- Staff HPC monthly meeting.

Old Business:

1) Cemetery Committee Report by Robert Gibbs

Mr. Gibbs said that he would be willing to give a copy of the cemetery project data to the St. Mary's Historical Society when it was complete. Mr. Lawrence asked how updates to the cemetery data-base would be handled. The group decided that updates could be provided to the Historical Society and LUGM in a 'read only' format. Mr. Weiskoff suggested that a brochure explaining the 'who, what and where' (data would be stored) of the Committee's intent might be helpful in promoting its endeavors. Mr. Lawrence stated that he had plenty of photos and could write some verbiage for a brochure. Ms. Brady offered to run off some copies of the brochure 'in-house' for the Committees use.

2) HPC Newsletter update by Susan Erichsen

Ms. Erichsen reported that the 1st newsletter was e-mailed to approximately 1,800 people. The Newsletter Committee consists of Carol Moody, Susan Erichsen and Grace Mary Brady. The next newsletter would contain articles about the Historic Preservation Conference just held in Easton and articles about the awards presented by the Commission to various individuals.

3) Preservation Maryland Conference in May

Carol Moody presented members with a written report of her observations during the Conference. Mr. Lawrence and Mr. Willard talked about some of the sessions that they found particularly interesting. Everyone thought the Conference was beneficial.

New Business:

1) David Weiskoff – Advice for Cemetery Committee

Item recorded above in the minutes.

2) CLG Report

Under Category B: Qualified Preservation Review Commission Ms. Mitchell wanted to correct her education to include a Masters in Anthropology. Mr. Govier wanted to add that he had a Masters in English Literature. Ms. Erichsen added that she had a BA in History from University Maryland, University College.

Under Educational Training add a number 8 to reflect that Rob Gibbs and Carol Moody attended the Southern Maryland Tobacco Barn Summit held on April 30, 2010.

Ms. Mitchell had questions about Category E: Financial Assistance and the Tax Incentive Program offered by St. Mary's County. Staff reported that the credit was still offered but no one had applied for it during this report period. There were a few other minor corrections. Motion by Ms. Erichsen, second by Mr. Willard, to adopt the CLG Report as amended. Motion passed unanimously.

3) Future Educational/Outreach Opportunities

Item recorded above in the minutes – reference to a brochure and an event to be held during Halloween week to support public awareness of cemeteries.

Items from the floor – None

Announcements – None

Adjournment – Motion by Mr. Lawrence, seconded by Ms. Mitchell to adjourn the meeting, which passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 5:45 p.m.

Submitted By: Grace Mary Brady

Signed by: _____
Robert Gibbs, Chair

Date: June 24, 2010