

Harford County Historic Preservation Commission
Meeting Summary: February 6, 2019

Members Present: Carol Deibel (chair)
Richard Sherrill (co-chair)
Dan Coates
Jacob Bensen
Jackie Seneschal

Members Absent: Christina Presberry

Staff: Caitlin Merritt
Joel Gallihue
Paul Magness, Deputy Director of Parks & Recreation

Guests: Rick Herbig
Sarah Filkins

Call to Order

The regular monthly meeting of the Historic Preservation Commission was called to order on Wednesday, February 6, 2019 at 7:03 PM.

Welcome & Introduction

Ms. Deibel welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Review and Approval: December 5, 2018 Meeting Summary

Mr. Sherrill moved to approve the meeting summary. Mr. Bensen seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

New Business

No applications

Old Business

Historic Preservation Awards

Ms. Merritt shared that the nomination period closed on Friday, January 18, 2019. Fourteen nominations were submitted:

- Preservation Project Award:
 - o Jericho Road Stone Bank Barn Restoration (Friends of Jerusalem Mill)
- Local Government Preservation Award:
 - o Bel Air Courthouse Window Restoration and Masonry repair (Harford County)

- Mt. Soma Barn & Corncrib Stabilization Project (Dept. of Parks and Recreation)
- Havre de Grace Opera House Rehabilitation Project (Havre de Grace Arts Collective)
- Special Preservation Awards:
 - Communication
 - African American History of Harford County Project (Campaign 42)
 - Harford's Heritage Video Series (Harford Cable Network)
 - Education
 - Harford Ice House Restoration and Exhibit (Harford Glen/Howard Eakes)
 - History & Heritage Educational Exhibits and programs (HCC)
 - Community Involvement
 - Bulle Rock Historical Society (Alicia Menefee)
 - Grassroots Advocacy
 - The Havre de Grace Colored School Foundation (Pat Cole)
- Preservationist Honor Award
 - Hosanna Community House/Hosanna School Museum (Iris Barnes)
 - Allan Vought – Aegis Journalist
 - Friends of Jerusalem Mill
 - The Liriodendron Foundation

Ms. Merritt will be sending the nominations via Drobox by the end of the week. Voting will take place at the March 6th HPC meeting. Commission members were asked to review the nominations prior to their next meeting to be prepared to vote.

Mr. Bensen asked if there would be a “conflict of interest” if he were to vote for a nomination that he involved with. Both Ms. Merritt and Ms. Deibel agreed that it shouldn't be an issue. Ms. Merritt said that there isn't anything in the HPC's Rules and Procedures regarding voting for the Historic Preservation Awards. Ms. Deibel added that it is difficult to find a project that someone on the Commission isn't involved with.

Ms. Deibel asked about the date for the ceremony. Ms. Merritt shared that the ceremony will be held on Thursday, May 16th at 4:30 PM at Swan Harbor. She will be finalizing the details in March and April.

Historic Preservation Legislation Update

Ms. Merritt shared some good news with the Commission. The legislation changes and updates were introduced to County Council on Tuesday, February 5th. The proposed public meeting will be Tuesday, March 5th at 6:30 PM. Ms. Merritt said that she will provide more details as it gets closer.

Ms. Deibel asked if staggered terms were included. Ms. Merritt told her that yes they were. In addition, language for developing design guidelines, and designation of historic districts. These three substantive items are required to be a Certified Local Government (CLG).

Ms. Seneschal asked Ms. Merritt to send them copies of the final bill. Ms. Merritt said that she would.

Other Business

MHT Survey & Inventory Meeting Summary

Ms. Deibel asked Ms. Merritt to give a brief overview of the meeting she had with MHT's Survey and Inventory Department in December.

Ms. Merritt said that they wanted to meet to share with the County updates and new projects that MHT is working on with the Maryland Inventory. They also were looking for information from the County on what we would like to see MHT be more involved in and what our needs are.

Ms. Merritt shared that MHT is updating the Maryland Inventory Form and the *Standards and Guidelines* for architectural surveys. They are working on making the inventory searchable by property type, ie. 18th century houses. In addition, they are undergoing a comprehensive analysis of the Maryland Inventory, county by county, to determine where there are gaps and what needs updating. It will also help them determine which counties are in need of more surveying.

They are also working on a project to survey dairy farms and to develop a historic context. Ms. Deibel asked if this would be for working and non-working dairy farms. Ms. Merritt and Ms. Filkins (MHT board member) both said that will be looking at both.

Mr. Coates asked about surveys that don't have any documentation. He brought up Susan Deeney's survey work in the late 1970s. Ms. Merritt said that there are a lot of surveys that have hand written forms and no documentation submitted. Much of Susan's work was new surveys at the time and may not have been properties that were already surveyed in the 1960s.

Ms. Deibel shared with the Commission that the original surveys were done with grants or on a contractual basis. So surveyors came and went.

Ms. Filkins noted that she sees the survey analysis project as a way for MHT to see where the need is- what counties are lacking documentation?

Mr. Coates asked Ms. Filkins if they will be considering cemeteries in light of the new state cemetery law. She said yes. They will be looking for information regarding cemeteries, outbuildings, slave quarters, 18th century buildings, etc.

There was a general discussion about Harford Community College's outbuilding survey. Mr. Coates asked if MHT had a copy. Mr. Bensen said that the Maryland Archives has a copy, but wasn't sure about MHT.

Mr. Coates brought up Dr. Sowers, the resident scholar at HCC. She is conducting research on food production and the dairy industry. Mr. Coates mentioned that she would be a good person to reach out to for MHT's dairy farm project.

Ms. Deibel asked about commission member openings. Ms. Merritt said that there were two, with one interested person. There was general discussion that Dr. Sowers may be a person to reach out to. Mr. Coates wasn't sure if she lived in county. Ms. Merritt said that a member can live outside the county, but they need to have academic/professional knowledge in preservation or related field. She said she would check the code for the specifics.

Ms. Deibel brought up that the Historical Society was contacted by a state agency about providing funds to rehab the Scott house at Bel Air Memorial Gardens. Ms. Deibel added that Ms. Seneschal and Ms. Merritt have agreed to work with them. The Historical Society and the state have contacted the property owner, but have not heard anything more. Ms. Deibel asked if Ms. Merritt had heard anything new. Ms. Merritt responded that she has not heard anything regarding it since her phone conversation with Mary Anna, with the Historical Society.

Show the Love Campaign

Ms. Merritt shared that the County is participating in the National Trust's "Heartbombing" event for Valentine's Day to show appreciation to historic places. Ms. Merritt said that it will run until Valentine's Day and photos will be posted to the County's social media pages.

Parks and Recreation Updates – Tudor Hall & Graham Property (Mr. Paul Magness)

Mr. Magness addressed the Commission regarding Tudor Hall and the Graham Property. He said that repair/replacement for rotted wood and painting will begin in April. They found lead paint and will be working on abatement. He shared with the Commission that Parks and Recreation took the Commission's recommendation for conducting paint analysis. The paint scheme they decided on was based on the paint analysis findings. They are going with a light brown color for the house with darker brown for trim and shutters.

Ms. Seneschal asked about cost. Mr. Magness did not have the numbers with him and said he would send the information to Ms. Merritt to pass along.

Mr. Magness said that the development of the passive park on the Graham property is moving forward. They are putting the project out to bid in March and hoping that it will be complete by the end of 2019 and ready for opening in the spring of 2020. They are using some Open Space funding. It will include a few walking trail loops, a pavilion, and a sensory trail. He added that nothing has changed on the site plan. A caretaker has been on the site since August.

Mr. Magness said that their goal was to develop the passive park. Regarding the historic structures, Parks and Recreation sent a letter to the Graham Property Trust (Trust) in December and just received a response earlier this week. The Trust indicated that they could not any provide and assistance with the stabilization of the historic buildings on the property. That money could have been used for matching funds for a MHT grant.

There was general discussion about the upcoming MHT Capital grant program and that it would be beneficial to look into the program. Ms. Seneschal said that we may not be ready to apply for this round, but if we can figure out a direction and plan for the buildings we may be ready for next year. She suggested partnering with the Historical Society so that the county wouldn't need to provide a match.

Ms. Filkins added that MHT is working to revise their easements. Easements required by a grant will no longer be in perpetuity. Length will depend on the amount of the grant award.

There was more discussion on figuring out a plan and use for the historic house before any grants be applied for. Ms. Seneschal suggested stabilizing it as a ruin like at a site in Frederick and Howard County. She also asked if establishing a "Friends" group would be beneficial. She added that the area can be a focal point in the community and needs to be utilized as the asset that it is.

There was general discussion about the park's importance in the community. Further discussion needs to be had about the buildings in order to develop a strong project for a grant.

Mr. Magness seemed open to discussing options further outside of regular HPC meetings.

Ms. Deibel thanked Mr. Magness for attending.

Adjourn

Ms. Seneschal moved to adjourn, the motion was seconded by Mr. Sherrill. The motion passed unanimously and the meeting ended at 8:10 PM.