

**CECIL COUNTY HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**8 January 2008**

**Present:** Cairns, Ed; Cairns, Sally; Edwards, Audrey; Edwards, Ron; Folk, Patricia; Simpser, Nancy; Sennstrom, Eric

**Absent:** Dixon, Mike

**Call to Order:** Chairman Ed Cairns called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.

**Approval of Minutes:** Motion made by Audrey Edwards to approve the minutes from the 4 September 2007 meeting. Patricia Folk seconded the motion. All members voted in favor of motion to approve the 4 September 2007 meeting minutes.

**New Business:** Director Sennstrom informed the Historic District Commission (HDC) that a pre-application had been received from the Cox Log House located near the intersection of Lombard Road and Wood Valley Road. The HDC perused the pre-application. Chairman Ed Cairns reported that he had a telephone conversation with one of the owners of the property, Joe Cox. Chairman Ed Cairns stated that the log house was erected in the 1800's and has subsequently been covered in siding. Nancy Simpser said that she was familiar with the location of the log house. Discussion ensued regarding the site, the structure, and the pre-application. Chairman Ed Cairns declared that a member of the HDC will visit the site and bring a nomination form for the owners to complete. It was decided that Chairman Ed Cairns will visit the site possibly to be accompanied by Nancy Simpser. Ron Edwards stated that he has no objections to the logs being covered by siding and stated that this is quite common.

Chairman Ed Cairns reported that he saw notices published in the legal notice section of the *Cecil Whig* regarding the placement of microwave towers in the municipalities of Cecilton, Charlestown, Chesapeake City, Elkton, and North East. The notice was soliciting input on whether these locations would adversely effect historic sites.

Chairman Ed Cairns queried as to whether the members of the HDC had completed their assigned inspections. Ron and Audrey Edwards responded that their inspection were completed in July 2007. Several inspections are still outstanding. Discussion ensued regarding the purpose of the inspections. Patricia Folk noted that she had contacted Tucker Mackie about potential nominations for historic designation.

Ron and Audrey Edwards presented documentation relative to restoration work recently completed on the Thomas Richards House. Total cost of the work is \$15,102.52. The Edwards would like to avail themselves of the Historic District Property Tax Credit as provided by Chapter 258, Article III of the Code of Cecil County. The HDC examined the documentation provided by the Edwards and found the request to be properly documented. Motion was made by Nancy Simpser to recommend that the Board of County Commissioners grant the Historic District Property Tax Credit to the Edwards for

their renovation and restoration work to the Thomas Richards House. Motion was seconded by Patricia Folk. All members voted in favor of motion. The Motion carried. The Edwards abstained from voting on this matter.

Patricia Folk stated that the HDC needs to create a document regarding rules and regulations to provide to applicants. She is of the opinion that it is important to educate potential designees on the requirements and responsibilities of historic designation. Patricia Folk also stated that it is important to make the information available. Chairman Ed Cairns perused the Code of Cecil County regarding the Historic District Property Tax Credit. Discussion ensued regarding the interiors of designated structures and their significance to the historic character of the structure. Ron Edwards noted that the interior is often the only way to reliably date a structure. Patricia Folk reiterated that it is important for the HDC to develop a procedural manual to give to applicants and designees that would list the programs rules and regulations. She stated it would permit individuals to know their obligations and what to expect. Patricia Folk also stated it would help the HDC in dispensing information about historic designation. Sally Cairns stated that the document would need to be reader friendly. Patricia Folk said that too many unanswered questions will scare potential nominees away. The HDC requested that Director Sennstrom prepare a draft manual for their review. The HDC requested a pre and post designation fact sheet format. Patricia Folk said it needs to be clear and explicit.

Patricia Folk reported that Harry Lenderman is erecting a plaque to recognize the designation of the Elk Forge Bed & Breakfast as a historic site. The HDC has been requested to recommend language for the plaque. Chairman Ed Cairns said the date of origin should be included. Audrey Edwards said it should also include the date of designation and Historic District Commission. Patricia Folk stated that Harry Lenderman offered the Bed & Breakfast as a meeting site for a future HDC meeting. Patricia Folk suggested holding an educational meeting there. Chairman Ed Cairns suggested having the May meeting at the Bed & Breakfast. Chairman Ed Cairns and Patricia folk ruminated on potential assistance for the HDC from college students. Patricia Folk will discuss ideas with Harry Lenderman and report back to HDC.

**Adjournment:** Chairman Ed Cairns adjourned the meeting at 3:51 p.m.

**Next Meeting:** Tuesday, 4 March 2008, 3:00 p.m., County Administrative Building, North East Room, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor, 200 Chesapeake Boulevard, Elkton, MD.

Respectfully Submitted:

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Eric S. Sennstrom, AICP  
Director – Planning & Zoning