

CECIL COUNTY HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes

4 March 2008

Present: Cairns, Ed & Sally; Dixon, Mike; Edwards, Ron & Audrey; Folk, Patricia; Simpser, Nancy; Black, David

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

Approval of Minutes: Motion made by Nancy Simpser to approve the 8 January 2008 meeting minutes. Motion was seconded by Patricia Folk. All members voted in favor of motion to approve the minutes. Motion carried.

New Business: Cecile McCaffery appeared to present information on restoration work that has been performed on the Brick House since 2002. The Historic District Commission (HDC) perused receipts relative to new shutters, power washing the exterior, window cleaning, painting interior, heater repair, electrical rewiring, and brick maintenance in the basement kitchen. Total expenses on receipts were \$29,500. HDC requested an itemization of the receipt concerning power washing, window cleaning, shutter installation and interior painting so that a determination as to whether they would be eligible for the tax credit. Discussion ensued regarding the bills presented by Ms. McCaffery. Nancy Simpser volunteered to take photographs of the Brick House for inclusion in the Cecil County Real Estate magazine.

Motion made by Nancy Simpser to accept Ms. McCaffery's bills once they have been properly itemized and corrected. Ed Cairns will send to Director Sennstrom after invoices are received. Motion was seconded by Patricia Folk. All members voted in favor of motion. Motion carried.

Chairman Ed Cairns reported that Nancy Simpser and he visited the Cox Log House. The condition of the structure is not good. Chairman Cairns is doubtful that an application for nomination will be sent to the HDC. Renovation to the house will be problematic. The dwelling has been added to over the years with only one portion still remaining as logs. Chairman Cairns was skeptical as to whether the HDC would accept the nomination if presented.

Chairman Ed Cairns reported that the Gilpin Falls Covered Bridge appears on the cover of WILMAPCO's Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). The TIP includes \$1.2 million for renovation of the bridge. Half of the amount are federal funds and half are local funds. A local match is required to obtain the federal funds. State funds may or may not qualify as local funds. Earl Simmers has obtained local pledges in the amount of \$100,000.

Discussion ensued on the letters sent to the Colora residents last May and the lack of a response thereto. The Colora Civic Association plans to host local history talks on the third Monday of the month for the next few months commencing in March at the Liberty Grove Methodist Church. The HDC ruminated on whether these meetings should be attended as a

follow up to the earlier mailings and to show a presence in the community.

Old Business: The HDC perused the draft fact sheet prepared by Director Sennstrom. Discussion ensued regarding defining demolition by neglect and clarity as to willful demolition by neglect. HDC desires to add more specificity from the Zoning Ordinance on the fact sheet. Discussion ensued regarding all nine lines on page 2 of the fact sheet beginning with the bullet regarding no work is to commence without HDC approval. HDC discussed rearranging the bullets under “Post Designation Responsibilities”. HDC discussed plaques for structures that have received historic designation by the Board of County Commissioners. The fact sheet should note that sites within the towns are not eligible for designation by the County. The fact sheet should also contain contact information for Planning & Zoning at the bottom of page 2.

Patricia Folk indicated that she had spoken to Tucker Mackie regarding a nomination for historic designation. Ms. Folk stated that Mr. Mackie expressed interest. Ms. Folk provided a photograph of a plaque on the David Williams House. Local plaque should be similar to national register only with Cecil County Historic District Commission on it. Discussion ensued regarding the cost of a plaque with Audrey Edwards pointing out that money is a factor. Additional discussion covered uniformity of plaques, standard sizes, and type of material such as wood or brass. Chairman Ed Cairns reminded the HDC that they do not have an independent budget but are dependent on the largess of Planning and Zoning. HDC discussed letting applicants decide whether or not they want a plaque displayed post designation. If plaque is erected on the structure, it should contain information relative to the name of the structure, date of the structure, and designation by the HDC. Nancy Simpers offered to have a graphic designer do some sketches. HDC will review sketches and decide on best design. Ron Edwards suggested that the plaque be as small as possible to fit the information. HDC was of the opinion that the plaque should be optional.

Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 4:01 p.m.

Next Meeting: 6 May 2008, 3:00 p.m., Elk Forge Bed & Breakfast

Respectfully submitted:

Eric S. Sennstrom, AICP
Director – Planning & Zoning