

## HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION

### Meeting Minutes

6 May 2008

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

**Absent:** Dixon, Mike

**Observer:** Lenderman, Harry

**Call to Order:** Chairman Ed Cairns called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m. Chairman Ed Cairns acknowledged Harry Lenderman and thanked him for hosting this month's meeting at the Elk Forge Bed & Breakfast.

**Approval of Minutes:** Motion made by Nancy Simperts to approve the March 2008 meeting minutes. Motion seconded by Patricia Folk. All members voted in favor to approve the minutes.

**New Business:** The Historic District Commission discussed the nomination for the "Thomas Scott's Place". Ron & Audrey Edwards said they know the property well. Part of the house dates to the 1740's. The application provides dates of 1757 and 1779 for the erection of the dwelling. Audrey Edwards stated that the front of the house was once the rear and that the stairwell was removed to re-orient the house. The HDC perused the photographs that were submitted with the application for nomination. Director Sennstrom reminded the HDC that their public hearing on this nomination is scheduled for Tuesday, 3 June 2008 at 3:00 p.m. in the Bainbridge room in the County Administration Building.

Chairman Ed Cairns summarized the re-formatted receipts for Cecil McCaffery's renovation and restoration expenses at the "Brick House". The total of the specified expenses are \$26,550. Ron Edwards said that people are confused by the tax credit and need more information. Chairman Ed Cairns will prepare guidelines explaining the credit. Ron Edwards stated that maintenance does not qualify, but renovation should. Discussion ensued regarding preservation for posterity versus preparation. The HDC discussed each item and deliberated whether it would qualify for the credit. The HDC eliminated \$4,000 of the listed items as they did not meet the standards for the tax credit. The total amount eligible for the tax credit is \$22,550. Ron Edwards stated that people are afraid of the HDC controlling their properties. Discussion ensued regarding local and national standards of review and proper renovation and restoration techniques. Motion was made by Nancy Simperts to approve \$22,550 as qualifying expenses for the tax credit. Motion was seconded by Patricia Folk. All members voted in favor of motion.

Chairman Ed Cairns stated that the HDC reviewed the fact sheet at their last meeting and had specific revisions that they would like to see made to the document. A marked up copy was given to Director Sennstrom for revision. The revised draft will be distributed to the HDC members via e-mail for their perusal.

The HDC discussed various versions of markers to place on the properties that have been designated as historic structures or sites by the Board of County Commissioners. Harry Lenderman stated that a standard design for the plaque would be best. Audrey Edwards concurred. Patricia Folk opined that the placement of plaques would be a good thing due

to the publicity they would provide for the HDC. Ms. Folk stated that the property owner should decide whether a plaque is erected. Patricia Folk also stated that the wording on the plaque should be standardized. Audrey Edwards agreed. Discussion ensued regarding what information should be included on the plaque. Consensus appeared to be that the plaque should contain the name of the structure, the date erected, and that it was designated by the HDC. Harry Lenderman offered to purchase a plaque and to place it on the Bed & Breakfast as a demonstration. Ron Edwards inquired as to the cost. Nancy Simperts indicated that a bronze plaque costs ~\$200. Different types and materials for the plaque were discussed. Bronze was preferred, aluminum was discouraged. Patricia Folk and Nancy Simperts were designated to choose the final plaque design and content.

**Old Business:** Chairman Ed Cairns noted that the Colora Civic Association is holding remember when series on 5/19 at 7:30 p.m. in the Colora School House, 6/16 at the Post Office, and 7/17 at the Quaker Meeting House. Charles Herzog sent an inquiry to the HDC as a result of their informational brochure. Chairman Ed Cairns noted that there have not been any responses to the HDC letter sent to the property owners in Colora. Harry Lenderman suggested sending a similar letter to the residents of Elk Mills. Mr. Cairns indicated that the Preservation & Revitalization conference will be held in Hagerstown, the February Historical Society Journal was noted, and other jurisdictions comprehensive plans were noted in regard to historic preservation. Harry Lenderman suggested the use of college students from either Cecil College or the University of Delaware to assist property owners with an interest in nominating their properties with the gathering of information. Ron Edwards and Patricia Folk concurred. Director Sennstrom will contact the Chair of the History Department at the University of Delaware to ascertain if any students may be interested. Director Sennstrom indicating that the Gilpin Falls Covered Bridge was inserted into the WILMAPCO TIP and that the draft application for national designation was sent to the Maryland Historic Trust for their review. Audrey Edwards reported that the McCracken House was lost due to an act of arson.

**Adjournment:** Meeting adjourned at 4:06 p.m.

**Next Meeting:** Tuesday, 3 June 2008, 3:00 p.m., Bainbridge Room, County Administration Building, 200 Chesapeake Boulevard, Elkton, MD.

Respectfully submitted:

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Eric S. Sennstrom, AICP  
Director – Planning & Zoning