**CECIL COUNTY HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION**
**MEETING MINUTES**
**2 September 2008**

**Present:** Cairns, Ed & Sally; Dixon, Mike; Folk, Patricia; Simpers, Nancy; Sennstrom, Eric

**Absent:** Edwards, Ron & Audrey

**Call to Order:** Chairman Ed Cairns called the meeting to order at 3:03 p.m.

**Approval of Minutes:** Nancy Simpers made a motion to approve the minutes from the 3 June 2008 meeting. Motion to approve was seconded by Patricia Folk. All members present voted in favor of motion to approve. Motion carried.

**Old Business:** Chairman Ed Cairns asked if any new applications for historic designation have been received. Director Sennstrom stated that none have been received since the Rowe nomination was approved by the Board of County Commissioners. Sally Cairns reported that she is trying to get an owner of a property on Little Elk Creek Road to nominate her property for designation. Nancy Simpers reported that many homes on Little Elk Creek Road have been restored.

Nancy Simpers stated that she has compiled a list of property owners in Elk Mills with structures erected prior to 1930 highlighted. She inquired as to whether the HDC would like to send a letter to the highlighted owners to see if they would be interested in nominating their properties for historic designation. She indicated a similar effort occurred in Colora. Chairman Ed Cairns stated that he is in favor of sending the letter. Patricia Folk indicated that Harry Lenderman would be an ally in generating interest in nominating properties. Nancy Simpers will create mailing labels with the address of the property owners and Ed Cairns will revise the Colora letter for Elk Mills and give to Planning & Zoning to be placed in the post. Mike Dixon suggested holding a HDC meeting in Elk Mills to help create interest in nominating for historic designation. He volunteered to create a powerpoint presentation of old photographs of Elk Mills for the meeting. Nancy Simpers suggested holding the meeting at the Harlan House. Discussion ensued regarding potential meeting locations. The HDC decided to hold the meeting on Thursday, 9 October 2008 at 7:00 p.m. in the Elk Forge Bed & Breakfast if available. Patricia Folk will consult with Harry Lenderman to ascertain whether the Elk Forge Bed & Breakfast will be available as a meeting site. Director Sennstrom queried as to whether the HDC would like copies of the informational brochure to go out with the letters. The HDC responded in the affirmative. Director Sennstrom also suggested that Cheryl Mattix be contacted to place notification of the meeting in her column in the *Cecil Whig*.

Patricia Folk asked about the plaques discussed at the last meeting and who would be responsible for the cost. Chairman Ed Cairns stated that the individual desiring a plaque would be responsible for the cost. Nancy Simpers stated that Paint "n" Place has a template to create a plaque at a cost of $175. Chairman Ed Cairns stated that all the prior designees should be made aware of the cost of the plaque. Nancy Simpers reported that a house in Charlestown has a nice looking plaque affixed to it. Chairman Ed Cairns opined that people are often reluctant to post plaques due to an aversion to publicity.

Chairman Ed Cairns stated that he has produced revisions to the "Guidelines" and for the "Fact Sheet". He questioned as to whether the guidelines should be in the fact sheet. Discussion ensued regarding potential revisions to both documents and the merger of the two onto one sheet. Patricia Folk, Sally Cairns and Nancy simpers were of the opinion that the documents should be combined and edited to fit on one sheet. Mike Dixon had no opinion. Director Sennstrom will make the necessary revisions to combine both documents into one and will e-mail the draft to the HDC members for their perusal.

Patricia Folk queried as to whether the History Department at the University of Delaware responded to our letter. Director Sennstrom stated no response has been received. Mike Dixon suggested contacting Washington College. He will provide the contact information.

The HDC brainstormed about getting the word out on historic designation. Discussion ensued regarding publicity for HDC. Mike Dixon suggested piggybacking on preservation month activities. Nancy Simpers reported on the upcoming Peach Festival in Cherry Hill on 6 September. Mike Dixon reported that the Town of Elkton is considering selling 1/3 of the Elk Landing property. Director Sennstrom stated that the Maryland Historic Trust will be holding a meeting in October on the application for federal designation for the Gilpin Falls Covered Bridge.

**Adjournment:** Meeting adjourned at 3:50 p.m.

Next Meeting: 7:00 p.m., 9 October 2008

Respectfully Submitted:

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Eric S. Sennstrom, AICP
Director of Planning & Zoning