

CECIL COUNTY HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes

5 June 2007

Present: Cairns, Ed & Sally; Dixon, Mike; Edwards, Ron & Audrey; Folk, Patricia; Sennstrom, Eric; Lenderman, Harry (observer)

Absent: Simpers, Nancy

Call to Order: Chairman Ed Cairns called the meeting to order at 3:05 p.m.

Approval of Minutes: Motion made by Patricia Folk to approve the minutes of the 1 May 2007 meeting. Motion to approve was seconded by Sally Cairns. All members of the HDC were in favor of the motion.

New Business: Director Sennstrom informed the HDC that the St. Patrick's Chapel in Pilottown has been nominated for historic designation. The HDC perused the application and supporting materials provided by the St. Patrick's Chapel Historical Society. The HDC found the following of note: the church was built in 1819, it was the second oldest Roman Catholic church in Cecil County, the first recorded wedding occurred in 1832, the first recorded baptism occurred in 1827. The chapel also afforded newly arrived Irish immigrants in this portion of the County a place to practice their religion when they could not do so in their native land. Mike Dixon made a motion to recommend designation as a historic site due to the architectural and cultural features of the site. The motion was seconded by Patricia Folk. All members of the HDC were in favor of the motion. The motion carried.

Harry Lenderman of the Elk Forge Bed & Breakfast appeared to express an interest to form a historic district in the village of Elk Mills. Chairman Ed Cairns remarked that Elk Mills has an important history and merits consideration for designation. Discussion ensued on the character and history of Elk Mills as well as the Elk Forge Bed & Breakfast. Ron Edwards opined on the former mill activity, designation criteria and the nomination process. Chairman Ed Cairns recited excerpts from the ordinance as well as the tax credit restrictions. Mr. Lenderman reported that he would be interested in nominating his Bed & Breakfast and will contact other landowners to foment an interest in others to also nominate.

Audrey Edwards reported that the Chandlee House had recently been razed. Mrs. Edwards lamented that the demolition could occur so quickly without any opportunity to explore other methods to retain the structure. Director Sennstrom stated that he will ask Pat Conway to notify him of the receipt of applications for demolition permits so that the HDC would be able to contact the property owners to explore feasible alternatives to demolition for historic resources in excess of 100 years of age. Audrey Edwards also reported that the State of Maryland has purchased the Robert Evans House and is planning renovations. Mike Dixon reported that the Town of Elkton has refused to designate the log cabin behind the courthouse as a historic structure due to their recalcitrance in activating their Historic District Commission.

Chairman Ed Cairns reported that the national historic tax credit conference will commence in Philadelphia on 19 June 2007. Director Sennstrom reported that the Cat Nap Inn on Harrisville road has returned a card expressing an interest in nominating the property for designation. The Edwards will visit the site and report back on its potential for designation. Chairman Ed Cairns stated that the HDC has designated 21 properties and there needs to be follow up to ascertain the status of the sites and whether the owners are in need of any assistance with their properties. The HDC decided to visit the designated sites and divided them as follows:

Ed & Sally Cairns: Onion Bed, Big Elk Chapel, Cherry Hill Church, England Family Farm, Brick House, Wilson Tenant House

Ron & Audrey Edwards: Thomas Richards House, Lowe House, Barnes Inheritance, Rehert Center, Reynolds House, Clendenin Freeman Farm, Octoraro Mansion

Mike Dixon: McKinney Family Cemetery, Yacht Elf, Upper Wickwire, St. Patrick's Chapel

Nancy Simperts: Brown Farm, Haviland House, Winter Brown House, Wherry-Jordan-Logan-Schwer House

Meeting adjourned at 4:15 p.m.

Next meeting: Tuesday, 7 August 2007, P&Z conference room.

Respectfully submitted:

Eric S. Sennstrom, AICP
Director – Planning & Zoning