

**CECIL COUNTY HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION**

**MEETING MINUTES**

**3 February 2009**

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

**Absent:** Cairns, Sally

**Call to Order:** Chairman Ed Cairns called the meeting to order at 3:10 p.m. Chairman Cairns noted that the Historic District Commission (HDC) had not approved the September 2008 meeting minutes.

**Approval of Minutes:** Motion was made by Patricia Folk to approve the September 2008 meeting minutes with the capitalizing of Elk and Simperts. Motion was seconded by Ron Edwards. All members present voted in favor of motion. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Patricia Folk to approve the October 2008 meeting minutes. Motion was seconded by Ron Edwards. All members present voted in favor of the motion. Motion carried.

**Old Business:** Chairman Cairns asked if any new applications for nomination have been received. Director Sennstrom replied in the negative. Nancy Simperts indicated that Betty Lane may be submitting an application shortly and that three others may be interested in following her. Audrey Edwards inquired as to whether the HDC still did pre-applications. Director Sennstrom indicated that pre-applications are still done. Nancy Simperts said she will follow up with Ms. Lane and will provide Chairman Cairns with the potential applicant's telephone number to see if he could render assistance to Ms. Lane. Patricia Folk inquired as to how many properties are needed to constitute a district. Chairman Cairns stated it is up to the property owners to nominate, but that more than one contiguous designation could create a district. Nancy Simperts said she is confident that Ms. Lane will be successful in encouraging others to nominate themselves for designation. Chairman Cairns indicated that while the HDC may not receive applications from the entire village, groups of properties would be nice. Discussion ensued regarding the creation of multiple districts in Elk Mills. Patricia Folk suggested a follow up mailing to create an interest in nominating properties. Mike Dixon suggested an alternative of letting the four potential nominations come in and then doing a press release to garner further interest. The HDC decided to contact the *Cecil Whig* when the nominations are received.

Chairman Cairns inquired as to whether the fact sheet had been finalized. Director Sennstrom indicated it had and that he will resend it via e-mail for the HDC's perusal. Chairman Cairns suggested that the tax credit guidelines be presented to the two new County Commissioners for their edification. Chairman Cairns suggested contacting Washington College to obtain a

student intern to assist applicants with their nominations and to do research on properties. Patricia Folk will contact Dr. John Seidel at Washington College to discuss this matter with him. Nancy Simperts volunteered that she was familiar with someone who may be interested in assisting.

Patricia Folk inquired as to the status of plaques for the designated properties. Nancy Simperts reported that 5X7 plaques were agreed upon and that Paint "N" Place in Elkton would fabricate them at the property owner's request. The cost would be borne by the property owners. Chairman Cairns reminded the HDC that the plaques are encouraged, not mandatory.

**New Business:** Chairman Cairns highlighted the brochure of historic places from the Chamber of Commerce. Chairman Cairns also stated that the HDC should consider a new member as chairman. Discussion ensued regarding duties of chairperson. Nancy Simperts nominated Ron Edwards. Mr. Edwards demurred and said he cannot accept the position. Patricia Folk volunteered to assume the role of chairperson. Audrey Edwards seconded Ms. Folk's nomination. All members present voted in favor of motion. Motion carried.

Nancy Simperts reported that the Cherry Hill Methodist Church is celebrating its 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Ron Edwards reported that the Cecil Hotel in Charlestown, dating from 1910 is in poor shape but will be purchased by the Town with Maryland Historic Trust grants and be restored and repaired. The Town will then sell the building. Chairman Cairns noted that he is a member of the Comprehensive Plan Citizen Oversight Committee and he is willing to present any goals and objectives relative to historic preservation to that committee that the HDC may have. Ron Edwards lamented that the public schools are not adequately teaching the County's history and that the HDC should encourage the Board of Education to do more in this area. Mike Dixon suggested using the *Cecil Soil* magazine as an alternative venue to the *Cecil Whig* for publicizing the HDC's efforts.

Motion was made by Mike Dixon to thank Ed Cairns for his seven years of service as Chairman. Nancy Simperts seconded the motion. All members present voted in favor of the motion. Motion carried.

**Adjournment:** Meeting adjourned at 3:57 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

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Eric S. Sennstrom, AICP  
Director – Planning & Zoning