

CECIL COUNTY HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
1 September 2009

Present: Cairns, Ed & Sally; Folk, Patricia; Simperts, Nancy; Sennstrom, Eric

Absent: Dixon, Mike; Edwards, Ron & Audrey

Call to Order: Chairperson Folk called the meeting to order at 3:05 p.m.

Approval of Minutes: Motion was made by Sally Cairns to approve the July 2009 meeting minutes. Motion was seconded by Nancy Simperts. All members present voted in favor of the motion. Motion carried.

Chairperson Folk noted that Nancy Simperts, Mike Dixon and she met to discuss the set-up of public outreach efforts. Nancy Simperts summarized a tour of Elk Mills undertaken by Mike Dixon, Patricia Folk, and herself. Ms. Simperts also reported that the *Cecil Soil* magazine has agreed to publish articles regarding the HDC and its activities. The articles will be titled "Then and Now" and will be authored by Mike Dixon and Nancy Simperts. Ms. Simperts will also be photographing, with the property owner's permission, each of the 23 designated sites so that they can be published as well. Discussion ensued on the village of Elk Mills and on the designation criteria. Chairperson Folk queried as to other options for enhanced publicity. Sally Cairns noted that she has a collection of photographs of many historic sites throughout Cecil County. Chairperson Folk suggested that the *Aegis*, *Herald*, *News-Journal*, and the Kent County newspaper be contacted to print articles about the HDC.

Chairperson Folk noted that Nancy Simperts has developed an improvement to the organization of the HDC brochure and the fact sheet/instruction inserts. Ms. Simperts' method involves the stapling of the inserts to the brochure so that they are held fast as a unitary handout. The members of the HDC were delighted with the proposed improvements. Ed Cairns noted that the fact sheet needed to be revised to reduce the indentation regarding the headings for "Items eligible for tax credits" and for "Items not eligible for tax credits". Chairperson Folk noted that the HDC members need to be listed on the instruction sheet and that the Historical Society of Cecil County and the Cecil Historic Trust need to be stricken. This would eliminate confusion. Chairperson Folk requested that the revised document be sent to all the HDC members for comment.

Chairperson Folk stated that a letter has been drafted to send to Dr. Seidel regarding the possibility of obtaining a student intern to assist the HDC with their efforts. She will follow up with Mike Dixon about contacting Harford Community College. Nancy Simperts inquired as to whether Tome School and West Nottingham Academy have community service requirements for their students and whether they might be resources to explore. Chairperson Folk reported that she has not yet contacted Henry Shaffer about the local school curriculum and the potential for local history to be included. Ed Cairns reminded the HDC that he has a 15 minute slide show that may be appropriate. Sally Cairns questioned if Cecil College

still had a local history course. Director Sennstrom will inquire with Dr. Lane as to whether the course is still offered. Ed Cairns will bring his slide show to the next meeting for the HDC to peruse. Chairperson Folk stated that Mike Dixon suggested a press release on the receipt of an application to nominate for historic designation. She also stated the need to have a vice-chair to carry on in her absence. Nancy Simperts nominated Ed Cairns for vice-chairman. Sally Cairns seconded the nomination. All members present voted in favor of the motion. Motion carried.

NEXT MEETING: 1 December 2009, 3:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Eric S. Sennstrom, AICP
Director – Planning & Zoning