

CECIL COUNTY HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
4 May 2010

Present: Diggins, Milton; Dixon, Mike; Edwards, Ron & Audrey; Folk, Patricia; Manejwala, Asma; Simperts, Nancy; Sennstrom, Eric

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

Approval of Minutes: Motion was made by Ron Edwards to approve the February 2010 meeting minutes. Motion was seconded by Patricia Folk. All members present voted in favor of motion. Motion carried.

Chairperson Folk asked Ms. Manejwala and Mr. Diggins, the newly appointed members of the Historic District Commission (HDC), to introduce themselves to the Commission.

Chairperson Folk indicated that a letter has been drafted to send to Dr. Seidel in response to his e-mail regarding options for Washington College students to aid the HDC in its duties. She noted that the draft letter had been sent to each member of the HDC for their perusal. The members of the HDC acquiesced to the form and content of the letter. Chairperson Folk stated that she will sign it and it will be sent to Dr. Seidel.

Director Sennstrom indicated that he will meet with Laura Mayse, Executive Director of the Cecil County Chamber of Commerce, to discuss the content of the of the informational material regarding the HDC to be sent in the Chamber's newsletter mailing. The HDC would like the fact sheet and/or the informational brochure to be sent if possible. Chairperson Folk indicated that Ms. Mayse should be made aware that a member or members of the HDC would be willing to attend a chamber meeting to talk about the HDC and its duties and activities.

Mike Dixon and Milton Diggins stated that they would collaborate on the creation of a powerpoint presentation to be used when the HDC addresses service organizations or other groups. Audrey Edwards noted that it is important to inform people that the powers and responsibilities of the HDC only apply to the unincorporated areas of the County.

Nancy Simperts stated that she has been in contact with both the *Cecil Soil* magazine and the *Cecil Guardian* newspaper regarding the publication of an article concerning the HDC. *Cecil Soil* has been hesitant due to existing workload but *Cecil Guardian* is eager to run the article in an upcoming edition.

Chairperson Folk indicated that she has spoken with outgoing superintendent of public schools Henry A. Shafer regarding the inclusion of a Cecil County history segment in the school's curriculum. Mr. Shafer told Chairperson Folk that he was deferring a decision on the issue to his successor. Nancy Simperts suggested that the HDC draft materials to be sent to the Cecil County Public Schools along with the

powerpoint presentation for their consideration. Milton Diggins noted that there is an opportunity in the social studies curriculum that could permit the inclusion of this material. He stated the Rising Sun presently does a good job with their advanced placement students in this field of study. Audrey Edwards interjected that the youth are usually very interested in local history. Asma Manejwala observed that graduate students expect to be paid for their services and that Cecil College or the Vo-Tech school may be good resources for assistance. Mike Dixon also suggested Harford Community College as a resource. Ms. Manejwala indicated that she will reach out to Harford Community College.

Chairperson Folk indicated that she would contact Sally Cairns about her efforts in the village of St. Augustine to generate interest in nominating properties for historic designation. Audrey Edwards stated that Ron and she were still pursuing nomination opportunities in Baldfriar as well as opportunities near Rising Sun. Mike Dixon indicated that the Rosenwald schools in Conowingo and Pleasant Hill would be good candidates for historic designation. Nancy Simperts reported that 3 applications in Elk Mills have been completed. She also inquired as to whether the owner of the Colora Mill might be interested in nominating the structure for historic designation. Audrey Edwards reported that the yacht Elf was being used for education purposes. She also inquired as to the status of the former tannery in Calvert. Director Sennstrom stated that the structure is owned by the Board of County Commissioners and that there is a curatorship in effect on the property. The curators are responsible for the restoration and maintenance of the structure in return for being permitted to reside therein.

Chairperson Folk indicated that she will not be able to attend the August meeting and inquired as to whether any of the HDC members would be willing to chair the meeting in her absence. Nancy Simperts indicated that she would be the chairperson if no one else wanted to take on the task.

Adjournment: Chairperson Folk adjourned the meeting at 4:00 p.m.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, 3 August 2010, 3:00 p.m., Bainbridge Room

Respectfully submitted:

Eric S. Sennstrom, AICP
Director – Planning & Zoning