

CECIL COUNTY HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
3 January 2012

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

Absent: Manejwala, Asma

Call to Order: Chairperson Folk called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.

Approval of Minutes: Motion was made by Nancy Simperts to approve the October 2011 meeting minutes. Motion was seconded by Audrey Edwards. All members present voted in favor of the motion. Motion carried.

New Business: Chairperson Folk presented the calendar year 2012 Historic District Commission (HDC) meeting schedule. The dates were 1/3/12, 4/3/12, 7/3/12, and 10/2/12. The HDC decided to move the 4/3/12 meeting to 4/10/12 and the 7/3/12 meeting to 7/10/12. Chairperson Folk requested that the HDC members send an e-mail to either herself or Betty Patterson in advance of the meetings indicating whether they will be attending to ensure a quorum is obtained.

Chairperson Folk indicated that Mike Dixon had suggested at an earlier meeting that the HDC develop a strategic plan in an effort to improve their efficacy. Mike Dixon indicated that it would be a way to create a roadmap for the next couple of years. Ron Edwards posited that the plan should include a year by year listing of the properties that have received designation. He stated that the exercise would be an excellent opportunity for the HDC to regroup. Nancy Simperts summarized the designations by year and noted that education is a significant component of the process. Chairperson Folk observed that marketing is an equally important component. Milt Diggins said that understanding the HDC and its mission as well as communicating that to the public is crucial to success. The HDC decided that the plan should emphasize marketing, education, and communication.

Chairperson Folk stated that the HDC, at an earlier meeting, had expressed an interest in conducting another workshop. She observed that educating the public about the HDC is important. Audrey Edwards noted that she had received two or three telephone calls since the article ran in the *Cecil Whig*. Director Sennstrom relayed that he had provided the brochure and nomination form to eight individuals who had read the same article and expressed an interest in nominating their properties for historic designation. Milt Diggins questioned how effective a workshop would be. The HDC decided that there would be no purpose in having a workshop. Director Sennstrom indicated that an ad will be run in the *Cecil Whig* providing the dates, location, and times of the 2012 HDC meetings. Chairperson Folk stated that an article in the *Cecil Guardian* would be helpful. Audrey Edwards suggested that future articles should make it explicit that the County's HDC and ordinance do not apply to the municipalities. She also requested that Milt Diggins' article be resent to the members of the HDC. Mike Dixon stated that there should be a focus on the realtors to raise awareness of the potential to nominate older

structures they may be selling. He suggested providing the realtors with the brochure and nomination form so that they could provide them to their clients. Nancy Simperts concurred. Mike Dixon also indicated that an article could be placed in the Cecil Historical Society newsletter. Audrey Edwards noted that the article should provide information on the difference between the Cecil Historic Trust and the Cecil Historical Society. Ron Edwards indicated that the article should attempt to address the concerns of those who may object to designation.

Chairperson Folk suggested that there should be a compendium of research assistance and resources for preservation and rehabilitation that the HDC could provide to people. Audrey Edwards produced a compendium that the State of Delaware had produced as an example. Director Sennstrom indicated that he would run the idea past the Board of County Commissioners to see if there would be any objections or concerns with the County producing a similar document. Nancy Simperts queried as to whether the Maryland Historical Trust (MHT) has a list of resources. Ron Edwards answered in the affirmative. Mike Dixon suggested inviting Ms. Beckley of Preservation Maryland and representatives of MHT to a future meeting.

Chairperson Folk asked if the HDC had any interest in moving the location of their meetings to venues outside of the County Administration Building. The HDC indicating that they had no desire to meet outside of the County Administration Building. Chairperson Folk suggested that the HDC encourage those who previously received designation to write letters to the editor about their experiences with the process and the HDC. Nancy Simperts indicated that she would contact several designees to make the request. Chairperson Folk inquired as to where the HDC was on the subject of plaques. Director Sennstrom stated that David Black had done some research on the subject and found that there were several firms that specialize in bronze plaques. However, the cost was quite dear. Paint "N" Place is a local vendor that specializes in urethane plaques. Nancy Simperts stated that she could deliver the template to Paint "N" Place on her way home to obtain a price quote.

Adjournment: Chairperson Folk adjourned the meeting at 3:55 p.m.

Next Meeting: 3:00 p.m., Tuesday, 10 April 2012

Respectfully submitted:

Eric S. Sennstrom, Director
Planning & Zoning