

CECIL COUNTY HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
2 February 2010

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

Call to Order: Vice Chairman Ed Cairns called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m. and announced that Chairperson Folk was momentarily delayed but will be in attendance shortly.

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

Old Business: Director Sennstrom read Dr. Seidel's e-mail sent in response to Chairperson Folk's expression of interest in Washington College students assisting the HDC with research on sites potentially eligible to be nominated for historic designation. After discussion, the HDC decided option three, a class project in the Fall semester, would best suit their needs. Audrey Edwards reported that the Cecil Historical Trust partnered with Cecil College on a photography project to document historically significant structures in the Nottingham Lots. Approximately 30 students participated. Discussion ensued on potential areas for research including Colora, Elk Mills, Oakwood, and St. Augustine. Ed Cairns will draft a letter for Director Sennstrom to send to Washington College regarding option #3.

Ed Cairns noted that the article on the HDC in the *Cecil Whig* was excellent. Chairperson Folk reported that she called the *Whig* and thanked them for the article. Chairperson Folk also stated that Bill De Freitas, publisher of the *Cecil Guardian*, is very enthusiastic about an article in the HDC for his newspaper. Mike Dixon has volunteered to e-mail photographs of historic sites to any publication that desires to include them. Chairperson Folk will set a meeting date with Mr. De Freitas. Director Sennstrom announced that he discussed the inclusion of HDC information in the Chamber of Commerce's newsletter with Executive Director Laura Mayse. Ms. Mayse was receptive to the idea and would like to meet to discuss the particulars. Additionally, Director Sennstrom indicated he had drafted a letter to send to the service organizations offering for the HDC to address their organizations. The HDC perused the letter and approved of its contents.

New Business: Chairperson Folk stated that she would like to set the goal of having one application for designation per month. Mike Dixon suggested the village of St. Augustine as an ideal focal point for the HDC's efforts as it is a fairly small concentration of structures with a significant history. Sally Cairns indicated that she would contact Cecile McCaffery to seek her assistance with contacting the other village landowners. Audrey Edwards indicated the potential of some sites near Rising Sun and in Baldfriar. She will approach her contacts in those areas. Chairperson Folk, Nancy Simperts, and Sally Cairns will also reach out to others who may be interested in pursuing nomination for historic

designation. Mike Dixon indicated that the State will be surveying the Rosenwald Schools, which include the maintenance building of the Cecil County Public Schools headquarters on Booth Street.

Adjourn: Chairperson Folk adjourned the meeting at 3:49 p.m.

Next Meeting: 6 April 2010, 3:00 p.m., Bainbridge Room, County Administration Building

Respectfully Submitted:

Eric S. Sennstrom, AICP
Director – Planning & Zoning

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 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 Simpers 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 Simpers 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

CECIL COUNTY HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
3 August 2010

Present: Diggins, Milt; Dixon, Mike; Edwards, Ron & Audrey; Sennstrom, Eric

Absent: Folk, Patricia, Manejwala, Asma; Simpers, Nancy

The Historic District Commission failed to achieve a quorum pursuant to the requirements of Article XI, Part IV, Section 245.4.b of the Cecil County Zoning Ordinance. Accordingly, no meeting was held.

Next Meeting: 3:00 p.m., Wednesday, 3 November 2010, Bainbridge Room, 200 Chesapeake Boulevard, Elkton, MD 21921.

Respectfully submitted:

Eric S. Sennstrom, Director – Planning & Zoning

CECIL COUNTY HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
22 September 2010

Present: Diggins, Milt; Dixon, Mike; Folk, Patricia; Simperts, Nancy; Sennstrom, Eric

Absent: Edwards, Ron & Audrey; Manejwala, Asma

Guests: Drs. John & Elizabeth Seidel

Call to Order: Chairperson Folk called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

New Business: Chairperson Folk introduced the Seidels and asked them to provide a short description of their professional and educational backgrounds. Elizabeth Seidel is the Director of the Public Archeology Laboratory at Washington College in Chestertown. John Seidel is Chair of the Department of Sociology and Anthropology at Washington College in Chestertown.

Dr. John Seidel provided an overview of the pros and cons of the different options available to the HDC through resources of Washington College. He is of the opinion that the best option would be to work with Michael Day's class to have students perform site research, develop effective arguments for historic preservation, create a tool kit to tout the benefits of historic preservation, and to draft promotional materials. This class could segue into senior thesis work for certain students which would consist of year long projects on independent study. Dr. John Seidel also noted that grant funding may be available for student stipends. Usually, the amounts are \$1,500 that would cover the cost of 150 hours of work.

The HDC suggested that the village of St. Augustine and the village of Elk Mills would be prime candidates for the class to focus on. The Seidels will confer with Michael Day about engaging his class in this endeavor and will contact Elizabeth Beckley about potential funding sources and grant opportunities. Dr. John Seidel indicated that there may be GIS opportunities present as well.

Discussion ensued on the next steps, resources for research, and the benefits of historic preservation to the County. Chairperson Folk thanked the Seidels for attending the meeting and for providing their insight and guidance.

Adjournment: Chairperson Folk adjourned the meeting at 10:03 a.m.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, 3 November 2010, 3:00 p.m., Bainbridge Room, 200 Chesapeake Boulevard, Elkton, MD.

Respectfully submitted:

Eric S. Sennstrom, Director – Planning & Zoning