

CECIL COUNTY HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes

7 February 2006

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

Absent: Dixon, Mike

Call to Order: Chairman Ed Cairns called the meeting to order at 3:01 p.m.

Approval of Minutes: Nancy Simperts made a motion to approve the 11 October 2005 meeting minutes. Patricia Folk seconded the motion. All were in favor to approve the October 2005 meeting minutes.

New Business: Mr. Mike Brunner from Kent County, Maryland appeared to speak to the HDC. Mr. Brunner is restoring a historic dwelling in Kent County and is trying to convince the Board of County Commissioners of Kent County that a Historic District Commission needs to be formed. A portion of the dwelling is circa 1795 and the other is circa 1844. Mr. Brunner would like a letter to the Kent County Commissioners from the HDC encouraging them to adopt an ordinance. Chairman Ed Cairns summarized the history of the efforts to establish the Cecil County HDC. Sally Cairns suggested that Mr. Brunner obtain the State Model Ordinance from the Maryland Historic Trust. Audrey Edwards suggested Mr. Brunner contact Bernie Callan. HDC agreed to send a letter encouraging the Kent County Commissioners to adopt a historic district ordinance and to form a historic district commission. Director Sennstrom presented a letter and photographs from William Ross regarding his property at 40 Joe Meltz Road. Mr. Ross is restoring the property and would like to know if the HDC thinks his property merits designation. HDC perused the letter and photographs. HDC would like to tour the house and would like to send an application for nomination.

Nancy Simperts stated that she has a database that can provide the age of structures in the County. HDC would like to have Ms. Simperts provide the data. Patricia Folk suggested contacting the *Cecil Whig* and the *Rising Sun Herald* to publicize the new HDC brochure. Nancy Simperts will contact the *Whig* and Patricia Folk will contact the *Herald*. Audrey Edwards stated the house on Sylmar Road is for sale.

Chairman Cairns adjourned the meeting at 3:41 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Eric S. Sennstrom, AICP
Director – Planning, Zoning, Parks & Recreation

CECIL COUNTY HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
2 May 2006

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

Absent: Dixon, Mike

Call to order: Chairman Ed Cairns called the meeting to order at 3:15 p.m.

Approval of minutes: Motion made by Patricia Folk to approve the February 2006 meeting minutes. Motion seconded by Nancy Simperts. All in favor of motion, motion approved.

New business: Ed & Sally Cairns reported that they visited Capt. William Ross to tour the "Wilson Tenant House" on Joe Meltz Road. The Cairns reported that the house was lovely and has had quite a bit of money spent on its restoration. The house is included in the book "At the Head of the Bay", it is in a remote location, has a brick exterior with cedar shakes replacing the original tin roof. The windows have been replaced with 6X6 windows, there is Egyptian molding on the interior, the dwelling dates from circa 1840. Chairman Ed Cairns will encourage Capt. Ross to nominate the property for historic designation.

Chairman Ed Cairns will fax a press release to Nancy Simperts. Patricia Folk reported that she has spoken to Lisa Tome at the *Herald* and that Ms. Tome is interested in doing a story. She would like to speak or obtain more information on historic preservation from Chairman Ed Cairns. Patricia Folk stated that she has spoken to Geraldine McKeown about historic preservation. Discussion ensued regarding the historic district tax credit.

Director Sennstrom notified the HDC that two cards have been received from the recent informational brochure distribution. The HDC has indicated their desire to have Director Sennstrom contact the property owners and furnish them with the nomination form.

Patricia Folk suggested a push to advertise the HDC efforts, to advertise the importance of historic preservation, to present to organizations, to visit properties, and to encourage nominations due to imminent growth heading our way. Audrey Edwards reported that a photographer was interested in taking pictures of barns in the County for a book. He was denied permission to photograph most of the barns by the property owners. Patricia Folk suggested making presentation to Chamber of Commerce, Board of Realtors and Democrat Club. Nancy Simperts will attempt to schedule a presentation to the Board of Realtors. Discussion ensued regarding publicity efforts.

Adjournment: Chairman Ed Cairns adjourned the meeting at 4:15 p.m.

Next Meeting: 5 July 2006, 3:00 p.m., P&Z Conference Room

Respectfully Submitted:

Eric S. Sennstrom, AICP
Director – PZP&R

**CECIL COUNTY MARYLAND
HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION
Meeting Minutes
29 August 2006**

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

Absent: Dixon, Mike

Call to Order: Chairman Ed Cairns called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.

Approval of Minutes: Chairman Ed Cairns reported that Audrey Edwards computer has died and she has been unable to prepare the minutes from the last meeting. Therefore, there are no minutes to approve.

New Business: Rehert Center: Director Sennstrom announced that the HDC has received a nomination to designate the Rehert Center as a historic site. Chairman Ed Cairns stated that Sally & he visited the property and took photographs. He noted the entire property is nominated for designation. The owner desires that the entire property be preserved. The barn is presently being restored. Chairman Ed Cairns summarized the history of the dwelling as follows:

The farmstead has been owned by Isaac Rehert since 1952. During the 1950's, Isaac worked the property as a dairy farm while his wife, Ingrid, pursued her career as an artist. In the 1960's, Isaac gave up farming and began working as a staff reporter for the *Baltimore Sun*. The farm buildings, house, and barn are almost 200 years old and their construction recalls building practices of the early 19th century. The house has a stone basement which belonged to the original dwelling and includes an active spring and huge hearth. The basic structure of the house is a one story log construction, featuring 16" X 16" squared logs that were roughly shaped by saws and adzes. Later additions were added above and around the log house so that it now has three stories, 7 bedrooms, living room, bath and large kitchen. The barn which is undergoing renovation, consists of extensive stonework with post and beam construction using timbers (36' x 16") and thick floorboards which were scavenged from the river arks that plied the Susquehanna in the early 19th century. The supporting timbers are flattened at the top for the floorboards and remain rounded below still retaining their bark. The fields are still bounded by stone walls that were built by freed slaves shortly after the Civil War. In one corner where two of the stone walls come together there is a family cemetery containing the graves of 14-20 individuals whose dates all precede the 20th century. One of the individuals interred here is Captain Christie, who made a name for himself in defense of the Country during the War of 1812.

Discussion ensued regarding the graveyard, the barn and its potential uses, the age of the structures, and methods for dating structures.

Motion was made by Nancy Simperts to recommend that the Rehert Center be designated as a historic site.

Motion was seconded by Patricia Folk.

All members in favor of motion to designate the Rehert Center as a historic site. Motion carried.

Director Sennstrom reminded the HDC that the Planning Commission will review and make recommendation on this application at their meeting of Monday, 18 September 2006 at 7:00 p.m. in courtroom 1, 129 East Main Street, Elkton. The Board of County Commissioners will act on the nomination on Tuesday, 3 October 2006 at 7:00 p.m. in the County Administrative Building located at 107 North Street, Elkton.

Old Business: Patricia Folk informed the HDC that an article appeared in the *Cecil Business Ledger* regarding the informational brochure. Discussion ensued regarding the informational brochure and other methods for answering people's questions on historic preservation. Chairman Ed Cairns reported on his discussions concerning historic preservation with John Farr. Discussion ensued regarding the general reasons for public's reticence in nominating properties for designation and what methods may prove to ease that trepidation. Suggestion followed such as coordinating with tourism, posting Q&A's on County's website, and an article in the *Business Ledger*. Chairman Ed Cairns will put a draft FAQ together for next meeting. Ron Edwards presented a soliloquy on why trouble occurs between an HDC and a homeowner.

Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 3:46 p.m.

Next meeting: Wednesday, 8 November 2006, 3:00 p.m., 129 E. Main Street, Rm. 300, Elkton, MD

Respectfully submitted:

Eric S. Sennstrom AICP
Director – Planning & Zoning

CECIL COUNTY HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
8 November 2006

Present: Cairns, Ed & Sally; Edwards, Ron & Audrey; Simperts, Nancy; Sennstrom, Eric

Absent: Dixon, Mike; Folk, Patricia

Call to order: Chairman Ed Cairns called the meeting to order at 3:05 p.m.

Approval of minutes: Motion made by Nancy Simperts to approve 29 August 2006 meeting minutes. Motion seconded by Audrey Edwards. Chairman Ed Cairns alerted the HDC to a typo on page two. All members were in favor of motion. Minutes approved.

Old Business: Chairman Ed Cairns reported that the Rehert Center nomination was approved by the Board of County Commissioners.

New Business: Chairman Ed Cairns presented his draft press release. The purpose of the release is to attract nominees and to allay fears and suspicions. Discussion ensued regarding the draft press release. Suggestions were made to post the release on the County's website, in the newspaper and in the real estate magazine. Ron Edwards indicated that the word "permit" should be removed from the document. Discussions ensued regarding new wording that would promote positives and overcome negatives. Ron Edwards asked how the Commissioners-elect stood on the matter of historic preservation. Chairman Ed Cairns will re-work press release and distribute to all members of HDC for their feedback. Audrey Edwards mentioned that the barn on the Sprout property needs to be moved within thirty (30) days, but a need exists for a new location and funds to move the structure. Mrs. Edwards also mentioned that the Cedar Farm on Calvert Road is a potential candidate for designation as well as the Mercer-Brown house on England Creamery Road. The Mercer-Brown house was erected circa 1729. Chairman Ed Cairns reported that he has received two (2) items of correspondence. One is from Alice Arbuckle in regard to moving the covered bridge from its present location to the site of the Pink House and the other is from Jim Mullin regarding the historic potential of the Worsell Manor property. Chairman Ed Cairns reported that he has received two mailings recently. One is the "Phoenix" newsletter and the other is a Maryland Heritage Area authority publication concerning the importance of historic preservation in relation to tourism. Audrey Edwards reported that she and Ron attended the historic conference in Washington D.C.

Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 3:54 p.m.

Next meeting: Tuesday, 2 January 2007, 3:00 p.m. – Planning & Zoning Conference Room

Respectfully Submitted: _____

Eric S. Sennstrom, AICP
Director – Planning & Zoning