

**CECIL COUNTY HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION**  
**MEETING MINUTES**  
**JANUARY 8, 2013**

**Present:** Diggins, Milt; Dixon, Mike; Folk, Patricia; Ricketts, Stephanie; Simperts, Nancy; Black, David

**Absent:** Edwards, Ron & Audrey; Sennstrom, Eric

**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 2, 2012 meeting minutes. Motion was seconded by Mike Dixon. All members present voted in favor of motion. Motion carried.

**New Business:** Nancy Simperts reported that she has four (4) prospects for historic designation. Unfortunately, she has been unable to obtain commitments from the individuals. Patricia Folk asked that Director Sennstrom send an application for nomination to Tucker Mackie. Nancy Simperts indicated that she gave a presentation to the Village of Saint Augustine regarding historic designation. Mike Dixon inquired as to whether the church is interested in nominating itself for designation. Ms. Simperts indicated that the Diocese, not the individual church, would need to initiate the nomination process. Discussion ensued on the potential of getting enough properties nominated and designated so that a critical mass is achieved to create a district.

Nancy Simperts announced that she has compiled a list of dwellings that were erected prior to 1950. Mr. Black indicated that the County's GIS capabilities permit the creation of a master list using SDAT resources to compile an inclusive listing of such dwellings. Mr. Black will e-mail the list to the Historic District Commission (HDC) members.

Discussion ensued regarding the County's building permit process and its history, available records, and the present automated system. Chairperson Folk inquired about the County's website and information regarding the HDC. Mr. Black indicated that he can create any configuration of information that the HDC would like to see. Ms. Folk inquired as to the status of the meeting with the Board of Realtors. Discussion ensued regarding the free app to access the County's GIS data. The HDC discussed the concept of an old house club as presented by Debbie Gibson at their last meeting. The HDC is of the opinion that the concept has possibilities and may be beneficial to them in a nonofficial capacity.

Chairperson Folk noted that she contacted Paige Howard at Mount Harmon Plantation to set up a meeting to brainstorm ideas regarding the potential formation of a partnership between the entities. Discussion ensued regarding the attributes the Mount Harmon plantation contains.

Mr. Black conveyed that the County is in receipt of a letter from the federal department of Veterans Affairs regarding potential construction work to be done on the Perry Point federal reservation. The VA would like a response within 30 days. Discussion ensued regarding the letter and its contents. The HDC decided that Director Sennstrom should respond with a letter noting that any construction activities occurring in the vicinity of the mansion be preceded by an archeological study and that the grounds around the mansion and mill be conserved. Chairperson Folk will need to be copied on the reply letter.

The HDC decided that their meeting schedule for calendar year 2013 would be the first Tuesdays of April, July, and October at 3:00 p.m.

Chairperson Folk inquired as to whether the letters had been sent to the list of designees regarding plaques for their designated properties. Nancy Simperts provided information on the suppliers of the plaques that will enable the letters to be sent.

Mike Dixon suggested that a marketing campaign be initiated to raise awareness on historic preservation. Quotes from designees as well as photographs of designated properties could be placed on the Historical Society website to emphasize the ease of the process. The visual should be emphasized. The HDC requested a list of the designated property to contact the owners to gauge their willingness to participate.

The HDC discussed the possibility of a workshop regarding researching historic resources. The Historical Society will be having a workshop in the near term future.

**Adjournment:** Chairperson Folk adjourned the meeting at 3:41 p.m.

Next Meeting: April 2, 2013, 3:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

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Eric S. Sennstrom, Director – Planning & Zoning

**CECIL COUNTY HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION**  
**MEETING MINUTES**  
**April 2, 2013**

**Present:** Diggins, Milt; Dixon, Mike; Edwards, Ron & Audrey; Folk, Patricia; Simperts, Nancy; Black, David

**Absent:** Ricketts, Stephanie; Sennstrom, Eric

**Guests:** Bland, Doug & Debbie

**Call to Order:** Chairperson Folk called the meeting to order at 3:04 p.m.

**Approval of Minutes:** The January meeting minutes were approved by the acclamation of the Historic District Commission.

**New Business:** Mr. Black provided a brief overview of the application by the Bland's to nominate Town Point School No. 4 for historic designation. Mr. Bland noted that school commissioners purchased the property for \$50 in 1877 in an effort to erect a school. The one room schoolhouse was constructed in 1877 at a cost of \$420. This school replaced an earlier school erected in 1859. The structure was used for a school until it was closed in 1938. The building was used for a period as a grocery store and then as a residence to the present day. The schoolhouse still has its original pine clapboards and double sash windows. The stone foundation has been repointed and preserved. The interior has been remodeled and two additions have been added over the years with the first occurring in 1920 and the second in 2002. Mrs. Bland related that through her nursing occupation she had met individuals that had been students at the school. Discussion ensued regarding the exterior attributes as well as the interior of the structure. Mr. Black noted that the application would be heard by the Planning Commission on Monday, April 15, 2013. He further stated that the Planning Commission will review the application and make a recommendation to the County Council who will decide whether or not to grant the request for historic designation.

Motion was made by Nancy Simperts to recommend approval of the nomination for historic designation. Motion was seconded by Audrey Edwards. All members present voted in favor of motion. Motion carried.

Chairperson Folk inquired as to whether there were any prospective nominees that may be coming forward in the near future. Ms. Edwards indicated that she was working with an entity that may nominate for designation. Chairperson Folk indicated that she has identified an individual to do the necessary research on her dwelling.

**Old Business:** Mr. Black indicated that he had received two testimonials from previously designated properties attesting to the ease of the nomination process as well as the importance of preserving the

County's historical heritage. The testimonials were received from Mrs. Crothers who owns the Isaac England House and from Harry Lenderman who owns the Elk Forge Bed & Breakfast. The Historic District Commission (HDC) recommended that a 200 to 500 word press release be prepared to submit to the local papers referencing the most recent nominations and the testimonials. This release would be sent once the Bland nominations process reaches its culmination.

Chairperson Folk inquired as to whether a workshop would be an integral component in moving the HDC's business forward. Mr. Dixon indicated that the Cecil County Historical Society will be holding a winter meeting sometime between November 2013 and April 2014. The HDC could have a table at the meeting to use as a platform to publicize itself and its work. Once an exact date is known he will report it to the HDC.

Chairperson Folk indicated that she will be meeting with representatives from Mt. Harmon Plantation next week to discuss the potential nomination of their site for local designation.

Mr. Black indicated that he has scanned aerial photography from the years 1938, 1952, 1957, 1964, 1972, 1977, 1980, 1986, 1990, 1996, 2003, 2005, 2008, 2010, and 2013. Milt Diggins inquired if it was on the County's website. Mr. Black replied that it was not but that he could copy it to a disk if someone wanted to review the photos.

Audrey Edwards posited that it would be desirable for the County's HDC to become involved inside the municipalities in an effort to improve the efficacy of the Town's efforts to preserve their historic and architectural heritages. The HDC asked Mr. Black to find out if that would be possible.

Chairperson Folk adjourned the meeting at 3:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

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Eric S. Sennstrom, Director – Planning & Zoning

NEXT MEETING – 3:00 p.m., Tuesday July 2, 2013, Bainbridge Room, County Administration Building

**CECIL COUNTY HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION**  
**MEETING MINUTES**  
**July 2, 2013**

**Present:** Dawson, Michael; Diggins, Milt; Dixon, Mike; Edwards, Ron & Audrey; Folk, Patricia; Black, David; Sennstrom, Eric

**Absent:** Simperts, Nancy

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

**Approval of Minutes:** The Historic District Commission approved the April meeting minutes by acclamation.

**New Business:** Chairperson Folk welcomed the newly appointed member, Michael W. Dawson, and asked him to introduce himself to the Historic District Commission (HDC).

Chairperson Folk asked Director Sennstrom to provide an update on the Town Point School Number 4 nomination for historic designation. Director Sennstrom reported that the nomination process successfully culminated with the action of the County Council to designate the former school as the County's 28<sup>th</sup> historic site. This designation occurred at the council's June 18<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Mike Dixon noted the presence of *Cecil Life* magazine and recent articles regarding the County's history. Audrey Edwards commented on the article in the most recent edition concerning the remains of structures on the Fair Hill property.

David Black presented the testimonials he has prepared regarding individuals who have requested and received designation as a historic site or structure. Mike Dixon suggested that the testimonials be placed on the County's website in areas such as P&Z and Tourism. Additionally, he suggested placing them in the library branches as well as providing the documents to the *Cecil Whig* and *Cecil Life* publications. David Black indicated that he would produce pdf's to be sent to the HDC members. Mike Dixon posited that audio testimonials would be nice to post. Chairperson Folk urged the HDC members to make telephone calls to solicit testimonials from other designees.

Director Sennstrom presented a synopsis as to the limitations on the HDC's authority and the reasons why its delegated powers end at the corporate limits of the municipalities. Discussion ensued on the HDC's ability to assist the municipalities with their historic preservation activities.

Mike Dixon reported that the Cecil County Historical Society will be holding 5 presentations over the winter. The meetings are usually 1 hour in duration and occur November through March. The HDC decided to attend the February 1, 2014 meeting to be held at 2:00 p.m. in Historical Society offices to present information about the HDC and its duties to interested persons.

Audrey Edwards stated that the Cecil Historic Trust has received a grant to provide for the Bainbridge Tome School stained glass window restoration. She also reported that a professor from New York University had contacted her about copyrighted photographs of fishing activities in Charlestown. Mike Dixon's assistance was instrumental in obtaining approval. Ms. Edwards also announced that a letter of George Washington that references Cecil County was recently auctioned.

Chairperson Folk reported that she has had discussions with representatives of Mt. Harmon plantation about mutual aid to enhance awareness of both the HDC and the plantation. She reported that they are willing to work with the HDC for the success of both entities.

Director Sennstrom indicated that he has received very little feedback from designees regarding the purchase of plaques.

Mike Dawson provided information on the issue relating to the original county seal. He noted the involvement of Mike Dixon in the research on this matter and Dr. McCarthy's introduction of the item on the County Council's agenda. Discussion ensued regarding the present seal, the original seal, various design features, and the general history concerning the seal.

Mike Dixon stated that revised development plans have been submitted to the Town of Elkton regarding the site of the former jail and former senior center. The new plans are more sensitive to and inclusive of the original building.

**Adjournment:** Chairperson Folk adjourned the meeting at 4:05 p.m.

NEXT MEETING: October 1, 2013, 3:00 p.m., Bainbridge Room, County Administration Building, 200 Chesapeake Boulevard, Elkton, MD 21921

Respectfully Submitted:

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Eric S. Sennstrom – Director Planning & Zoning

**CECIL COUNTY HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION**  
**MEETING MINUTES**  
**October 1, 2013**

**Present:** Dawson, Mike; Diggins, Milt; Folk, Patricia; Simperts, Nancy; Black, David; Sennstrom, Eric

**Absent:** Dixon, Mike; Edwards, Ron & Audrey

**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 July 2013 meeting minutes. Motion was seconded by Milt Diggins. All members present voted in favor of motion. Motion carried.

**Old Business:** Chairperson Folk provided a brief summary of the meeting agenda and remarked that is important to link the efforts of disparate groups in order to foster greater cooperation and efficacy in historic preservation efforts.

Chairperson Folk inquired as to whether any members had testimonials to present. None were forthcoming. Ms. Folk indicated that she had obtained two testimonials from Cecil McCaffery and from Steven Jones from the Brickhouse and Upper Wickwire respectively. David Black presented the draft product related to the quotes from the property owners as well as photographs of their designated structures. Mr. Black indicated that testimonials had been received from 8 or 9 of the 28 designated sites in the County. Nancy Simperts noted that it would be nice to create a compendium of all 28 testimonials once they have been received.

Chairperson Folk noted that it is imperative to correct the misperceptions and misinformation that exists regarding historic designation. Nancy Simperts reflected that the local program is much less restrictive and onerous than State and federal historic designation programs. David Black indicated that he would be willing to meet with the County's Tourism Coordinator to explore the feasibility of creating a presence or link for the HDC and its documents on the Tourism portion of the County's website. Chairperson Folk indicated that she would contact Denise Davis, Executive Director of the County's library system, to explore a similar arrangement on their website. Milt Diggins noted that Mike Dixon would be the most appropriate person to contact at the Historical Society to effectuate a similar link on the Society's website.

Chairperson Folk reported that she met with individuals from Mt. Harmon Plantation in an effort to create a partnership. Mt. Harmon is willing to provide a receptacle for the display of the HDC's materials regarding the local program, but they do not provide internet links at this time. Discussion ensued on other potential avenues to explore for partnerships. Mike Dawson posited that it would be good to have the County's website link to the Town's websites so that the municipal efforts vis-à-vis

historic preservation could be displayed along with the HDC's efforts. The HDC suggested a letter proposing this arrangement be sent to each mayor under Chairperson Folk's signature.

Director Sennstrom presented a summary of changes to the informational brochure that resulted from a meeting that Milt Diggins, Mike Dixon, David Black and he had several weeks ago. The HDC was receptive to the proposed revisions with Nancy Simperts reflecting that there needs to be an emphasis on the local program being less restrictive and Mike Dawson requesting that certain fonts be changed to improve consistency and ease of viewing. Discussion ensued on the brochure's bullet points and the clarity and simplicity of the language contained thereon.

**New Business:** Director Sennstrom noted that he had been contacted by a homeowner who requested a nomination form. He stated that the form and supporting documentation had been sent but that nothing had been received back from the individual.

David Black reported that he received a complaint from Mike Dixon regarding the alleged demolition of the one room Fredericktown school. Mr. Black noted that a field inspection revealed that the school is intact but a storage shed has been razed.

Chairperson Folk requested that staff re-send Mike Dixon's e-mail regarding the Historical Society's Winter/Spring speaker schedule and that the updated roster of HDC members also be sent the membership.

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

Next Meeting: January 7, 2014, Bainbridge Room, County Administration Building

Respectfully submitted:

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Eric S. Sennstrom, Director – Planning & Zoning