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CECIL COUNTY, MARYLAND

Division of Planning and Zoning
200 Chesapeake Boulevard, Suite 2300, Elkton, MD 21921

Historic District Commission - Meeting Minutes

October 5, 2021

Online via Zoom

Members Present: Coleman, Heidi; Coleman, Macon; Fockler, Karl; Simperts, Nancy

Others Present: Steve O'Connor (Department of Land Use and Development Services)

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 3:00 PM by Ms. Coleman.

Discussion Items

I. Commission and Staff

- a. Mr. O'Connor informed the Commission that Ms. King has left Cecil County Government, and that he would be the interim staff contact until her successor is hired. Mr. Fockler was welcomed to the Commission. He discussed his interest in historic preservation and his experience with Charlestown. He further stated that his undergraduate degree is in history and government from the University of Virginia. Ms. Simperts was also reappointed, and she described her experience with the Board from the past 14 years and that she has plenty of opportunities to see these properties through her daily work.

- II. Meeting Minutes – April 6, 2021 – A motion was made by Ms. Simperts, seconded by Ms. Coleman to accept the April 6, 2021 meeting minutes. They were approved by the Commission with Mr. Fockler abstaining from the vote.

III. Old Business

- a. Mr. O'Connor informed the Commission that the social media posts for National Historic Preservation Month back in May did generate some interest in the program. He suggested that that the Commission may want to do this again in 2022. Ms. Simperts stated that she could take about 50 informational brochures about historic preservation to the Elk Creek Preservation Society's apple butter festival on October 9. Further Ms. Simperts suggested that letters go out to historic preservation property owners describing the program and its benefits. She recalled it was done some years ago and it was successful. Discussion ensued about the HDC's roles and duties for the benefit of new members.

IV. New Business

- a. Mr. O'Connor sought the Commission's feedback as to items to complete over the next 12 to 15 months. The Board accepted the 2022 meeting dates as January 4, April 5, July 12, and October 4. All meetings to be at 3PM and to plan for an in person meeting with a videoconference option due to the COVID-19 crisis. The Commission also provided the following projects to attain in 2022:
 - i. Public outreach and education about the benefits of historic preservation;
 - ii. Seeking opportunities for grants for façade improvements on historic properties;
 - iii. Working with other groups, such as the Lower Susquehanna Heritage Greenway (LSHG) to achieve common goals;
 - iv. Explore the possibilities of creating an informational/self-tour for historic properties that could be brought up on mobile devices;
 - v. Leveraging testimonials from other historic preservation groups (state, federal, town, etc.) for public outreach and education;
 - vi. Inspect the 31 existing Cecil County historic designated properties and get updated photos;
 - vii. Review the historic preservation county wide survey completed in the 1970s or 1980s to see if there are properties that now qualify for historic preservation;
 - viii. Create a database and/or map of the historic preservation easements held by the Maryland Historic Trust;
 - ix. Place on online map of historic properties on Cecil maps or the County's Maps & Apps gallery.

V. Adjournment

- a. A motion was made by Ms. Simpers, seconded by Mr. Fockler to adjourn the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 4:00PM.