

Harford County Historic Preservation Commission
Meeting Summary: Wednesday February 3, 2021

Members Present: Carol Deibel (Chair)
Dan Coates (Co-Chair)
Iris Barnes
Jackie Seneschal
Eric Polk
Christina Presberry
Phil McCall

Members Absent: None

Staff: Jacob Bensen
Joel Gallihue

Public: None

Call to Order

The regular monthly meeting of the Historic Preservation Commission was called to order at 7:01 PM.

Welcome

Ms. Deibel welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Review and Approval

January 6, 2020 Meeting Minutes

There were no suggestions for corrections or amendments. Ms. Seneschal moved to approve the minutes as submitted. Ms. Presberry seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Old Business

2021 Historic Preservation Awards

Mr. Bensen informed the Commission that two nominations had been received by the January 15th deadline. He asked if the Commission would like to move forward with the 2021 Awards with only two nominations. Discussion resulted in a unanimous decision to move forward, although no formal vote was taken. Ms. Deibel suggested that Mr. Bensen send the Commission the nominations and that the discussion be continued during the March meeting.

Archeology Update

Mr. Coates reported that work continues regarding the Old Baltimore site. He has been in contact with Mr. Mark Gallihue, the cultural resources manager at the Proving Ground, regarding the site report and the return of artifacts from Jefferson Patterson Park & Museum.

New Business

Certificate of Appropriateness (COA) Application: Demolition of 20th Century Building at Spesutia Church (HA-249/250)

Mr. Bensen presented the Staff Report on the demolition of the ca. 1930s Parish Hall at Spesutia Church. He summarized the technical error which allowed a demolition permit to be issued without the approval of the Commission and shared ways in which the issue will be prevented from occurring in the future. He reminded the Commission that the demolition had been completed in December of 2020. The Staff Report recommended that the demolition be approved because the building is not a contributing element to the Landmark and its demolition will not negatively affect the integrity of the historic church grounds, cemetery, Spesutia Church, or Vestry House. This is consistent with Secretary of the Interior's Standard 2, which states that "the removal of historic materials or alteration of features and spaces that characterize a property shall be avoided."

Ms. Seneschal moved to approve the COA, as submitted, based on the staff recommendation. Ms. Presberry seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Certificate of Completed Work Application: Rumsey Mansion (HA-0001)

Mr. Bensen presented the application for the completion of the painting project at Rumsey Mansion. The project was approved by the Commission in 2020 as COA-2020-01 and COA-2020-04. Photos submitted by the property owner show the re-painted wood trim on both the mansion and springhouse. Photos of the in-kind replacement of the modern decorative shutters show that they are indistinguishable from the shutters installed in the 1970s. Mr. Bensen recommended the Commission approve of the completed work and forward the tax credit application to the Finance Department, as the work met the requirements set by the Commission in their project review.

Mr. McCall moved to approve the COCW, as submitted, based on the staff recommendation. Mr. Polk seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Other Business

Potential and In-Progress Landmarks

Mr. Bensen informed the Commission that, following a discussion with Havre de Grace Planning & Zoning staff, he was informed that the owners of Sion Hill (HA-525) are not ready to discuss Landmark designation at this time. Mr. Bensen will inform the Commission if this status changes.

Mr. Bensen informed the Commission that he had been contacted by the owners of the Brown-TeLinde House (HA-278) near Fallston, who inquired about the Landmark Program. Mr. Bensen provided the owners with information on the Program and designation process.

Administrative Business

Design Guidelines CLG Grant Status Update

Mr. Bensen informed the Commission that a working draft has been completed, which was reviewed by the sub-committee. Recommendations for improvement were given to Murphy & Dittenhafer Architects during the January 28th meeting. It is expected that a full draft will be made available to the Commission on February 17th for discussion at the March 3rd meeting before being made available to the public. It is anticipated that a public comment will be held during the Commission's April 7th meeting. Ms. Deibel and Mr. McCall noted that the meeting had been positive, and that the sub-committee remains active in its work.

Public Comments

Ms. Seneschal reminded the Commission of the e-mail they had received from Mr. Bensen regarding the designation of Clark's Chapel M.E. Church and informed the Commission that the Historical Society of Harford County will be hosting three online programs during the next week and encouraged participation.

Mr. Bensen continued Ms. Seneschal's comment regarding Clark's Chapel M.E. Church, informing the Commission that staff had received significant positive feedback on the designation and that local media had or were in the process of producing articles and videos on the designation, which would be released in the next few days.

Mr. Bensen reported that no public comments had been received prior to the meeting. There were no public attendees.

Adjourn

Ms. Seneschal moved to adjourn the meeting. Mr. McCall seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously, and the meeting ended at 7:33 PM.