

**Harford County Historic Preservation Commission
Meeting Summary: Wednesday August 4th, 2021
Hybrid Meeting**

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

Members Absent: None

Staff: Jacob Bensen
Jon Leishman

Public: Laura Bianca- Pruitt

Special Guest: None

Call to Order

The regular monthly meeting of the Historic Preservation Commission was called to order at 7:02 PM.

Welcome

Ms. Deibel welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Review and Approval

July 7, 2021, Meeting Minutes

Ms. Deibel requested a motion. Ms. Presberry motioned to approve the minutes as submitted. Mr. Polk seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Archeology Update

Mr. Coates reported that they are starting a dig this Friday at the Rumsey Mansion property.

Mr. McCall asked if Mr. Coates needed any help from the Commission members?

Mr. Coates stated that this was open to the public, and that anyone could help if they wanted too.

New Business

Spesutia Road Improvements: MHT Finding of No Adverse Effect

Mr. Bensen wanted to give an FYI to HPC members by showing Spesutia Road on the PowerPoint screen. He said this update was sent by the Harford County Department of Public Works. The improvements include a resurfacing of the road with a driveway apron connecting and an installation of a 5-foot sidewalk. He also mentioned that there will be no access to the property during the project. He then asked the Commission if there were any questions.

Mr. McCall stated that in the long term these proposed alterations will have a character change to the property.

Other Business

Harford Heritage Committee Update

Ms. Deibel stated that the Harford 250 website is up and running and that she and Ms. Seneschal are working on a timeline of Harford County's history.

Ms. Deibel stated that on September 16th, 2021, there will be a meeting for the public where Ms. Seneschal will be giving the overview.

Ms. Deibel stated that she wants to trigger ideas and let the public know who their Liaison is. This will be at 10 am on a Thursday.

Ms. Seneschal summarized her experience with writing the Harford History Timeline and her hope is for this to be on the website by the fall.

Administrative Business

Harford County Historic Preservation Survey App Update

Mr. Bensen explained how all the Public owned properties have had plaques installed at the Landmarked properties. He said we are moving forward in this aspect. He mentioned there are two volunteers on the HPC staff so far- Ms. Seneschal and Ms. Presberry. While Mr. Polk will be completing the survey for his own house, which is also a County Landmark.

Mr. Leishman gave an update on the Survey App stating that he will be focused on training the Planning and Zoning Office's new Historic Preservation Planner how to work and run this project. He stated that it will be his primary focus.

Ms. Seneschal asked Mr. Bensen if he was going to St. Frances De Sales to give the plaque.

Mr. Bensen stated that they will be coming into the Harford County Government main office to pick this up.

Mr. Bensen then explained the renovations of the Emily Graham Bayless Park House.

Mr. Bensen then stated that Stephanie Soder will begin on Monday, August 9th and gave some information on her background. He stated that she has a background in Archaeology, she is from Delaware, she will be taking over the Inventory Update and she will be talking with Mr. Coates about Old Joppa.

Ms. Seneschal asked what is the schedule for the next Guidelines phase?

Mr. Bensen stated that we are still on hold, because of the hold up at the Maryland Historical Trust Office.
Mr. Bensen assumes the training will also be on hold.

Mr. Coates wanted Mr. Bensen to tell Stephanie about the Sunday meeting.

Public/Commission Comments

Ms. Laura Bianca- Pruitt wanted someone to remind her of the date for Harford 250.
Ms. Deibel stated that is September 16th.

Mr. Coates made a comment regarding the proposed Old Post Rd parking lot that was presented to the HPC last month. He noted that the stand of trees on the property may indicate a family cemetery

Mr. McCall mentioned that the mobile Harford County Track It Tool is not mobile friendly.
He also said that the visibility of signage is not in the most opportune places. He also visited Scotts Old Fields and noted that the windows removed from the building had been placed in storage.

Ms. Deibel thanked Mr. McCall for the Star-Spangled Banner Trail info.

Adjourn

Ms. Deibel asked to for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Coates motioned to adjourn. It was seconded by Mr. Polk. The motion passed unanimously, and the meeting ended at 7:36 PM.