

**Harford County Historic Preservation Commission**  
**Meeting Summary: Wednesday September 1st, 2021**  
**Virtual Meeting**

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

Members Absent: Christina Presberry

Staff: Jacob Bensen  
Jon Leishman  
Stephanie Soder

Public: Laura Bianca- Pruitt  
Rick Herbig

Special Guest: None

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**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**

August 4th, 2021 Meeting Minutes

Ms. Deibel requested a motion to approve the minutes as submitted, with a few small changes. Ms. Seneschal made a motion to approve the September minutes with the corrections as noted. Mr. Polk seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**Archeology Update**

Mr. Coates reported that he was not able to make it to the Old Joppa dig.

Mr. Bensen stated that he was able to make it, a few different times with Ms. Soder and Mr. Leishman. He stated that the group was able to find artifacts related to the Mansion itself, but not the historic town. Mr. Bensen also said that the UMD team was able to take him into the woods next to the Rumsey Mansion to see an exposed ruin.

Mr. Bensen also discussed artifacts located in the water of Joppatowne.

Ms. Soder stated that a prehistoric artifact was found at the dig.

Ms. Deibel asked if it was closed for the impending rain.

Mr. Bensen said it is closed now.

Ms. Deibel said that Dr. Gibb is coming to the Historical Society's annual picnic to discuss Archeology in Harford County.

### **New Business**

#### Introduction of New Historic Preservation Staff Member: Stephanie Soder

Ms. Soder gave a brief introduction about her background via PowerPoint. She discussed her education, and interests, among other things.

#### Certificate of Completion/Tax Credit Application: John Bailey House (HA-923) Siding

Mr. Bensen showed a PowerPoint on the John Bailey House. He explained the details of the siding project. Mr. Bensen showed photo proof of the finished restorations and he also explained and showed the financial details.

Mr. Polk said that this is all 100% accurate.

Ms. Seneschal asked if there was a before picture.

Mr. Polk said to look on Google Maps, it should be there.

Mr. McCall told Mr. Polk that he made great progress and this project is a great example for future county preservation activities in the area.

Mr. Coates asked if there was any thought about putting up signage?

Mr. Polk said that he would do it, but he needs some ideas and examples.

Ms. Deibel called for a motion to approve this application as submitted. Mr. McCall made a motion to approve and Mr. seconded the motion. Mr. Polk abstained. This motion passed.

## **Other Business**

### FFY 2021 CLG Grant Status (Design Guidelines Phase II)

Mr. Bensen gave an update with the Grant status toward Phase II of the Design Guidelines.

Ms. Deibel asked if there was a timeframe?

Mr. Bensen said that he has not heard if we get an extension, he is anticipating the original completion date and he will be writing a brief report to Maryland Historical Trust.

### FFY 2021 HPC Training

Mr. Bensen gave an update on the joint training seminar with Bel Air.

### Harford Heritage Committee Update

Ms. Deibel stated that the Harford 250 website is up and running and that she and Ms. Seneschal are working towards the upcoming Harford Heritage Planning meeting. She wants people to register to get a head count and you can register at Harford250.org.

Ms. Barnes said that she cannot make the event, but she is getting Donna Lewis to fill her place.

Mr. Coates asked what is a table facilitator?

Ms. Seneschal said that it's a matter of guiding the discussion and reporting to the whole group at the end of the day.

Mr. Coates asked how many people per table.

Ms. Seneschal stated that there are 4-7 people each for COVID safety.

## **Administrative Business**

### Proposed Havre De Grace City Ordinance No. 1058: Demolition Procedure

Mr. Bensen gave the background on the proposed Havre De Grace Ordinance

Ms. Deibel asked if there was a landmark agreement?

Mr. Bensen stated that they do, and they are working to prepare a list for Designated Landmarks.

Ms. Seneschal asked what was the chance that it passes?

Mr. Bensen said he was not given that info.

Mr. McCall asked if there was any benefit to send a letter from Harford County?

Mr. Bensen reminded group of the Demolition code from the Harford County Code.

Ms. Deibel said that individually we could send, but maybe not from the County as a whole.

Mr. Coates asked who is in charge of Havre De Grace?

Mr. Bensen said it was Dianne Klair and Jean Johnson.

Ms. Deibel said that this is really an important piece of legislation.

Mr. McCall said that when he joined, the lack of heavier engagement is a problem. We could change that and engage them better.

Mr. Bensen said that more community engagement is what we are working on – I will be more proactive.

Mr. McCall said just for us to have a supporting voice.

Mr. Bensen stated that this is in the master plan.

Ms. Deibel asked if we could thank her for including us, and we support it?

Ms. Seneschal said that we can use words like “We are pleased”

Ms. Deibel said that Mr. Bensen needs to ask Jenny Jarkowski.

Ms. Seneschal said that Ms. Deibel is the appropriate person to contact Havre De Grace.

Mr. McCall gave an idea about the letter being formal with a county letterhead.

Mr. Coates said maybe they can participate in the monthly meetings.

Ms. Deibel said after covid is over.

Mr. McCall asked if they could join by Webex?

Mr. Bensen thinks this is very possible and it can happen

#### Harford County Historic Preservation Survey App Update

Ms. Soder explained some stats of properties surveyed and completed, she mentioned the number of staff working on this project and talked about a training video that would be easier than making everyone come into the office, one by one.

Mr. Leishman discussed his survey work at Old Joppa that he recently completed.

Mr. Coates explained a note on the cannery artifacts going to Steppingstone Museum.

Mr. McCall asked where is the property?

Mr. Coates said across from the auto auction on Route 7.

Mr. Coates stated that new survey work will be allowed during construction.

Mr. Coates said that his intention is to update the archeological survey form.

### **Public/Commission Comments**

Mr. Bensen interpreted the question from Virginia Ches from mail to add a photo of Rumsey Mansion.

Mr. Bensen said Jim Chrismer gave a comment from LinkedIn giving Kudos to HPC for the design guidelines.

Mr. Bensen said that Ms. Bianca Pruitt wants community members to serve on the Bel Air HPC.

Ms. Deibel said the next meeting was October 6<sup>th</sup>.

### **Adjourn**

Ms. Deibel asked to for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Seneschal motioned to adjourn. It was seconded by Ms. Barnes. The motion passed unanimously, and the meeting ended at 8:27 PM.