

Harford County Historic Preservation Commission
Meeting Summary: Wednesday October 2, 2019

Members Present: Carol Deibel (chair)
Phil McCall
Dan Coates (Co-Chair)
Jacob Bensen
Jackie Seneschal

Members Absent: Christina Presberry
Iris Barnes

Staff: Caitlin Merritt

Public: Mark Gallihue
Ty and Cami Schwenk

Call to Order

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

Welcome & Introduction

Ms. Deibel introduced herself and welcomed everyone to the meeting. She asked the rest of the Commission members and staff to introduce themselves.

Review and Approval: August 7, 2019 Meeting Minutes

Mr. Coates moved to approve the meeting summary. Mr. McCall seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Seneschal had a question about the I-95 project expansion of the Abingdon Road overpass that was noted in the minutes. Ms. Merritt said that she did not have any new information regarding that project to report on.

Old Business

Historic Landmark Nomination Update: John Bailey House

Ms. Merritt provided a brief update on the nomination going to Council for designation. She said that the resolution will be presented to the County Council on October 8th and it will be voted on and hopefully, approved on October 16th. The designation will go into effect immediately after it is approved on October 16th.

New Business

Ms. Deibel explained the review process and its purpose to the applicants and guests.

Historic Landmark Nomination: Baker Rodman House (HA-999) 3548 Churchville Road, Aberdeen

Ms. Merritt gave a brief background on the property to the Commission. She noted the house was determined eligible for the National Register of Historic Places by the Maryland Historical Trust.

Mr. and Mrs. Schwenk presented their nomination to the Commission. The Baker Rodman House was the original homestead of the Baker family, who were notable in Harford County's early canning industry. It was the birthplace and early home of George Baker, who is known as the father of canning in Harford County.

In addition, the Baker Rodman House is significant for its distinctive architectural characteristics. A small portion of the house dates to the American Revolution, but the main part of the present day house was constructed in 1801, with additions around 1900 and 1955. The main section of the house has its roots in the Federal Style, with its center-hall plan. Some Victorian architectural features were added in the late 19th century giving it its present day "Cottage-Style" appearance. The home was owned by Dr. Peter Rodman from the 1948 to the early 1980s. Dr. Rodman received patients in the small one-story additions on the rear of the house.

Ms. Deibel thanked the Schwenks. There was a general discussion about the property and its history and how it meets the historic landmark criteria.

Ms. Deibel asked if she had a motion to recommend the Baker Rodman House to the County Council for Historic Landmark Designation. Mr. Coates moved to recommend the nomination of the Baker Rodman House to the County Council for designation as a County Historic Landmark because it was the home of George Baker who made significant advancements in Harford County's canning industry and for its 19th century architecture. Ms. Seneschal seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Ms. Merritt told the homeowners that she will be in touch when the nomination will be presented to the County Council.

Administrative Business

CLG Application Update:

Ms. Merritt told the Commission that she is still waiting to hear back from MHT since submitting the application in August. Nell Ziehl, from MHT had a few questions, but nothing that would prevent the county from being certified.

Maryland Planning Commissioners Association Conference

Ms. Merritt reminded the Commission that the planning conference is coming up on November 6th in Aberdeen, and if anyone is interested in attending let her know. She shared the conference schedule and agenda.

Future Meeting Dates

Ms. Merritt shared that Ms. Barnes was teaching a class on Wednesday evenings and asked if the Commission would consider changing the meeting day until the end of the year. Ms. Seneschal commented that the planning conference on Wednesday, November 6th is also a HPC meeting day. She suggested not having a meeting in November. Ms. Merritt said that she didn't anticipate any applications coming in for the November meeting and did not have anything else planned for the agenda.

There was a general discussion about the November meeting and the Commission agreed to not hold one. In addition, they decided to keep the meeting on Wednesday evening for the last meeting of 2019. Ms. Barnes will only miss one more meeting this year.

Public Comments

Mr. Mark Gallihue, from APG, addressed the Commission about the Mitchell House, which is located on APG property, but is outside its gates. He said the house has become a hazard since it no longer is within the post's gates. There are break-ins and vandalism. He mentioned that the Federal Government can't solicit contractors to find alternatives, so he wanted to hear if the Commission had thoughts or questions on the matter.

Ms. Merritt asked if the house has been fully documented. Mr. Gallihue said it was.

Mr. McCall asked if the General Services Administration (GSA), a federal agency, could sell or lease the excess property through an MOU/MOA. Mr. Gallihue said he was not aware of that option with GSA.

There was a general discussion about other ideas and plans, including a museum of the canning industry and a similar program to DNR's Curatorship program.

Mr. Gallihue thanked the Commission for their suggestions. Ms. Deibel thanked Mr. Gallihue for addressing the Commission.

Adjourn

Ms. Seneschal moved to adjourn the meeting. Mr. McCall seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously and the meeting ended at 8:05 PM.

The next HPC meeting will be Wednesday, December 4, 2019 at 7:00 PM.