

Harford County Historic Preservation Commission
Meeting Summary: Wednesday October 5, 2022
Hybrid Meeting

Members Present: Carol Deibel (Chair) - Virtual
Dan Coates (Co-Chair)
Phil McCall - Virtual
Christina Presberry - Virtual

Members Absent: Jackie Seneschal
Eric Polk
Dr. Iris Barnes

Staff: Jacob Bensen
Stephanie Soder

Public: Laura Bianca-Pruett

Call to Order

The regular monthly meeting of the Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) was called to order at 7:03 PM.

Welcome and Introductions – 7:03 PM

Ms. Deibel welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Approval of Minutes – 7:03 PM

Ms. Deibel opened the floor to anyone with comments on the September 2022 minutes. Mr. Coates requested that the staff identify the field seasons/projects instead of using “current” and “previous” fieldwork in the Old Joppa COA section, as well as changing the “1970s” datum to “2020” datum point. He also requested that in the section regarding the African American Heritage Grant, the staff clarify which grant applications were being discussed, specifically that the cemetery preservation discussion was about the McComas cemetery, not the St. James cemetery. There were no further questions or comments.

Ms. Deibel requested a motion. Ms. Presberry made a motion to approve the September 2022 minutes with the amendments requested by Mr. Coates. Mr. Coates seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

New Business – 7:10 PM

Maryland Planning Commissioners Association Conference – Award for HPC

Mr. Bensen announced that the Maryland Planning Commissioners Association (MPCA) was recognizing the Harford County HPC for their work on the *Harford County Historic Preservation Design Guidelines*. The award presentation would be completed at the MPCA Conference on October 26. There were no further questions or comments.

Ongoing Business – 7:12 PM

African American Heritage Grant Program

Ms. Soder provided an update on where the HPC and staff were at in the process for the grant. The County Executive would be announcing funding decisions the following week. Ms. Soder stated that the HPC's role in the grant was nearing the end, and staff would continue to monitor the grant awardees afterwards. There were no further questions or comments.

Harford County Historic Landmark Update – The Kurtz Mansion

Mr. Bensen announced that the County Council had approved the Kurtz Mansion Landmark designation 7-0. The next step is for the County Executive to sign the resolution.

Ms. Deibel asked if there were any further steps that the HPC would need to take regarding the designation. Mr. Bensen said that everything that remained was administrative for the staff to complete unless the applicant wanted to put forward a Certificate of Appropriateness. There were no further questions or comments.

Archeology Update

Ms. Soder announced that the Old Joppa archeological work would be started soon and that they were hosting two public days – October 15, and October 22 at the Resurrection Fall Fair.

Ms. Deibel announced that the Historical Society of Harford County was hosting a Brown Bag Lunch the following week about the Bush Tavern archeological work. There were no further questions or comments.

Harford Heritage Committee (Harford 250 Commemoration) Update

Ms. Deibel provided the HPC with an update on the Harford 250 event. A formal marketing committee has been established, and the budget has been increased. The Harford 250 booth has been traveling around the county and will be at the Resurrection Fall Fair where Mr. Coates has offered to run it. A passport project is being created with the Chamber of Commerce and the anthology project is in the design phase.

Mr. Bensen encouraged HPC members to come visit Ms. Soder and him at the Bel Air First Friday event in two days to see the booth.

Mr. Coates asked if duck hunting would be considered for the sports event and offered to speak with Mr. Kevin Peel, who has a display that he might be willing to put up at the event. Ms. Deibel requested that he forward Mr. Peel's contact information to her. There were no further questions or comments.

Harford County MIHP Survey Update

Ms. Soder provided updated numbers for the MIHP survey. She also announced that there was a new Planning & Zoning intern, Ms. Ingrid Berrios, who would be assisting with the MIHP survey updates.

Ms. Deibel asked if there had been any surprises so far with the updates. Ms. Soder said that she had just come across another building that had been moved in the early 20th century while doing surveys this week, which seemed to be a popular trend that was mentioned previously.

Administrative Business – 7:27 PM

There was no administrative business to discuss at this meeting.

Public Comment – 8:35 PM

There were no public comments.

Adjourn

Ms. Deibel called for a motion. Mr. Coates moved to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Ms. Presberry. The motion passed unanimously, and the meeting ended at 7:29 PM.