

**Harford County Historic Preservation Commission  
Meeting Summary: Wednesday October 6th, 2021  
Hybrid Meeting**

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

Members Absent: Eric Polk

Staff: Jacob Bensen  
Stephanie Soder  
Angela Hoover

Public: Laura Bianca- Pruitt  
Rick Herbig  
Carol Powers

Special Guest: Annette Blum

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**Call to Order**

The regular monthly meeting of the Historic Preservation Commission was called to order at 7:03 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. Ms. Seneschal made a motion to approve the September minutes. Mr. Coates seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

## **Archeology Update – 7:06 PM**

Mr. Coates noted that the archeological dig in Old Joppa had been completed. He discussed the display of artifacts located at Perryville Library in Cecil County and plans for next month's display. No projects have been discussed for Harford County yet. Ms. Seneschal noted that there would be a further discussion on the Old Joppa dig, held virtually, by the Harford County Historical Society on Tuesday, October 12.

Ms. Soder discussed a recent constituent's archeological finds near Swan Harbor (mistakenly referred to as Belle Vue). The Department of Planning and Zoning is currently arranging a site visit and non-invasive survey with the Department of Parks & Recreation and Maryland Historical Trust. Mr. Coates requested that the Archeological Society of the Upper Chesapeake be included.

## **New Business – 7:10 PM**

### Hays House Certificate of Acceptance

Mr. Bensen provided background information and photographs of the work that has been approved by the Maryland Historical Trust for exploratory demolition at the Hays House. The north elevation of the building is severely water damaged and the Historical Society of Harford County is attempting to determine the cause. Questions included the involvement of the Maryland Historical Trust and the re-use of materials.

As this is a Maryland Historical Trust easement and it has already been approved by the Trust, the HPC did not need to vote for approval.

### Joshua's Meadows Certificate of Appropriateness

Ms. Soder provided background information and photographs of the work that was completed on the Joshua's Meadows eastern exterior storm door. The work has already been completed by the homeowner and the staff has recommended a retroactive approval due the project's alignment with the Design Guidelines. Co-owner and tenant Annette Blum was in attendance to answer questions regarding subcontractors and her reasoning for the use of different hardware.

Ms. Deibel called for a motion to approve this application as submitted, based on the project meeting the Secretary of the Interior Standards and Harford County Design Guidelines, as noted in the staff report. Ms. Seneschal made a motion to approve and Ms. Presberry seconded the motion. This motion passed.

### Eden Mill Pre-Certificate of Appropriateness Discussion

Mr. Bensen introduced Ms. Angela Hoover from the Department of Parks & Recreation. Ms. Hoover provided background information and photographs of the work that will be proposed on the Eden Mill roof. Proposing slate tiles to replace metal, slate, and asphalt roofing on the mill building. Ms. Hoover answered questions regarding the patterning of the current slate tiles, the structural integrity of the roof, and the slope of the roof, and when she might be submitting a Certificate of Appropriateness for this

project. Ms. Hoover is planning to submit when she receives price quotes and supervisor approval, hopefully next month.

#### **Other Business – 7:41 PM**

##### 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. Maryland Historical Trust has allotted more money to the grant, totaling the full amount requested. The guidelines committee recently completed an extended outline for Phase II to include historic district review process, buffers for landmarks, and sustainability and renewable resources. He answered questions on the process and noted that even with the setback, the project should still be completed on time.

##### Belle Vue Farm National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom

Mr. Bensen announced that the Belle Vue Farm was recently added to the National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom. Dr. Barnes presented the history of the site as an escape place of Eliza Parker and her family and its relation to the Christiana Resistance. She answered questions regarding if there were restrictions as a Network to Freedom landmark and the current use of the farmstead. Concerns about the remoteness of the site were expressed by several members.

##### Harford Heritage Committee Update

Ms. Deibel discussed the planning charette that had occurred this past month with interested parties for the Harford 250 celebration. Ms. Deibel stated that 30 people were in attendance and they discussed what the opening and closing events should be and how to coordinate with other events throughout the year. The Steering Committee is meeting next week to discuss the outcome of the charette and create an outline of plans.

#### **Administrative Business – 8:03 PM**

##### Completion of the Emily Bayless Graham Manor House

Ms. Hoover announced that the stabilization work at the Emily Bayless Graham Manor House had been completed. She showed before and after photos of the interior and exterior of the house. She also discussed the next steps, which would be to restore the corncrib and barn. She answered questions on how the chimneys were capped, and members of the HPC congratulated her on the progress that has been made.

##### Harford County Historic Preservation Survey App Update

Ms. Soder described the updated statistics of properties surveyed and completed, the number of staff working on this project, and gave an update on the progress of the training video. Mr. Coates asked when Belle Vue had last been surveyed and whether it could be moved up the list to be surveyed. Ms. Soder indicated that it could be, and that priorities can be rearranged based on need and impending work such as demolition.

## **Public Comment – 8:14 PM**

Mr. Bensen introduced a concern received from Ms. Maryanna Skowronski from the Harford County Historical Society about the state of the last Del Haven Cabin located at 809 Conowingo Road outside of Bel Air. It is privately owned and does not appear to be in use at this time. It is reportedly deteriorating and sits in the flood plain. HPC members asked if it had been previously surveyed for the Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties, which Mr. Bensen confirmed that it had not been. Mr. McCall requested that someone describe the history of the place for those who weren't familiar with the property. Ms. Deibel outlined the history of the Del Haven Cabins and the surrounding area. Members suggested prioritizing that survey due to its condition.

Ms. Seneschal announced staffing changes at the Harford County Historical Society. Ms. Maryanna Skowronski is leaving on October 23, 2021 for a new position. Ms. Christine Potts will be the interim director and will be in place at least until December while they search for a new director.

Mr. Rick Herbig, a member of the public, commented on the Emily Bayless Graham manor house restoration and thanked Ms. Hoover and the HPC for their work on the restoration. He asked what the next steps would be for the outbuildings and manor house. He expressed that he was looking forward to a dedication or ribbon cutting ceremony or other opening ceremony by the Department of Parks & Recreation. Mr. Herbig also addressed the status of the Hays House and expressed his wish for them to address the cause of the paint peeling. He noted that Mr. Michael Cullum, a volunteer at the Historical Society, recommended that they consider removing the paint and then priming it to see if the same water issues would occur.

Ms. Hoover followed up with Mr. Herbig's questions by stating that at this time, the Department of Parks & Recreation would not be holding a dedication ceremony for the Emily Bayless Graham Park. It was originally postponed due to COVID-19. They are planning to wait until the outbuildings are restored. Ms. Hoover also asked about the Del Haven Cabin and asked if the Department of Planning & Zoning could acquire it due to its location in the flood zone. Mr. Bensen stated that the property across the street was acquired by the Department of Planning & Zoning, so there is a possibility that it could be done.

Mr. Coates commended the Department of Parks & Recreation for their work on the Emily Bayless Graham house.

## **Adjourn**

Ms. Deibel asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Seneschal motioned to adjourn. It was seconded by Mr. Coates. The motion passed unanimously, and the meeting ended at 8:30 PM.