

MINUTES

TALBOT COUNTY HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

3 May 2010

I. ROLL CALL

The regular monthly meeting of the Talbot County Historic Preservation Commission was called to order at 9:32 AM on Monday, 3 May 2010. Those members in attendance were Mr. Steven K. Hack, Chairperson, Mr. Earl Segal, Mr. Ward Bucher, Mr. Robert Arnouts, and Ms. Peggy Pickall. Mr. Eric Lowery was absent. Representing the County were Mr. Martin Sokolich, and Ms. Florence Ball.

II. CURRENT BUSINESS

- A. REVIEW MINUTES OF 1 MARCH AND 5 APRIL MEETINGS – The minutes of the TCHPC meetings from the previous two months were read. Since there were no corrections or additions, *Mr. Earl Segal moved to approve the minutes of both 1 March and 5 April 2010 as read. The motion was seconded by Mr. Robert Arnouts and it was carried unanimously.*
- B. STATUS OF TCHPC REPORT TO COUNTY COUNCIL – Mr. Steven Hack reported that he submitted the draft of the Demolition Delay Ordinance along with the report, and has received a response from the County Council offering a choice of two dates for TCHPC to meet with them: Tuesday 8 June, or Tuesday 22 June. After some discussion among the Commissioners as to the preferred date, Mr. Hack said he will tentatively pencil in 8 June and poll the Commissioners by email once they have had a chance to check their calendars. He said he especially wants to discuss the Demolition Delay Ordinance with the Council, and solicit from them a general vote of confidence in TCHPC's efforts and projects.
- C. 2010 TCHPC BUDGET – Mr. Steven Hack said the County Council has preliminarily appropriated \$4,400 for TCHPC. He said the amount earmarked for training is not sufficient, and TCHPC will be pulling funds from other areas of the budget to cover the cost of educational events which are required annually for the Commissioners.
- D. PRESERVATION MARYLAND CONFERENCE – Mr. Steven Hack once again reminded the Commissioners to register for the conference if they have not already done so, and strongly urged their attendance. Some of the scheduled activities at this event were briefly discussed.
- E. TCHPC BROCHURE – Mr. Martin Sokolich advised a stock of old brochures are available for use until the updated one is ready to distribute. He distributed copies of the brochure for the Commissioners to examine. In terms of the anticipated updated brochure, Mr. Steven Hack raised the question of what method of distribution, might be best, mentioning the previously discussed possibility of a mass

mailing to all owners of Talbot County properties currently cataloged with “T” numbers by the Maryland Historic Trust (MHT). Specifically targeted are those properties which are not already protected with a Talbot County Historic District Overlay (HDO). Ms. Peggy Pickall was strongly in favor of that idea. Mr. Earl Segal suggested the possibility of including one of the currently available brochures in the Preservation Maryland Conference package, if it is not too late to do so. Mr. Robert Arnouts suggested other possibilities such as including them in all County literature displays, real estate offices and hotel lobbies. A suggestion was made to channel brochures intended for real estate offices through the Talbot County Board of Realtors. Mr. Earl Segal mentioned that the Board of Realtors is always looking for continuing education credits, and it might be good to suggest their attendance at some historic preservation conferences to help fulfill their requirements.

The procedures needed to implement a mass mailing were discussed. Mr. Martin Sokolich said getting the current mailing addresses of the MHT listed properties may be a challenge, but it is possible to do. A data base needs to be put together for that purpose so labels can be printed. It was discussed that the current sepia brochure would need an envelope, since there is no blank space on which to affix a mailing label, and that the updated brochures will have a space provided for that purpose. Mr. Ward Bucher inquired whether TCHPC has enough money in the budget to pay for a mass mailing, adding that he feels the effort will be worth the investment. Mr. Steven Hack confirmed that there are sufficient funds to do so.

Mr. Robert Arnouts felt the photos on the prototype brochure are too small, and that the information contained in them is not informative enough. Mr. Steven Hack asked Mr. Martin Sokolich if it would be possible to get new photographs on the brochure. It was discussed that once the second draft is done, it could be circulated via email so the Commissioners can review and comment, and hopefully, approve it rather than waiting until the next meeting in June to do so. Ms. Peggy Pickall said TCHPC may need written permission from property owners before displaying photographs of their properties in the brochure. She also suggested that information about TCHPC meetings be included in the brochure, hoping to encourage the public to attend some of the meetings.

MOTION – Mr. Ward Bucher entered a motion to mail the new brochure, once approved, to all owners of MHT listed historic properties. The motion was seconded by Mr. Earl Segal and unanimously carried.

The Commissioners further discussed some possibilities in regard to making the brochures available to the general public, after which a second motion was entertained:

MOTION – Mr. Robert Arnouts entered a motion to distribute the sepia brochures to all appropriate public places throughout the County. The motion was seconded by Mr. Ward Bucher and unanimously approved.

III. NEW BUSINESS

- A. TCHPC SITE VISITS – Mr. Steven Hack spoke briefly about the recent site visits to Knox (T-172) and Otwell (T-164) which are both in the vicinity of Oxford. Both properties were found to be in beautifully maintained condition. Photographs taken at the sites were shared with those Commissioners who were not able to make the visits. Mr. Hack said he has not yet arranged site visits for May. Once he has scheduled them, he will provide the Commissioners with details by email.
- B. SCENIC BYWAY – Mr. Martin Sokolich said a consultant has been hired by Debbie Dodson, Talbot County Director of Tourism, to explore the feasibility of including the Mid-Shore area in the National Scenic Byway, the main points of scenic interest being Wye Mills, Longwoods, Easton, St. Michaels, Tilghman; and traveling toward Caroline County, the Dover Bridge vicinity. The intention of the study is to create an inventory of existing and potential historic assets, and it is being done as part of a corridor management study financed with a grant. In connection with the study, Ms. Dodson has also scheduled a bus tour which begins at the Park-and-Ride located at Routes 50 and 404. The tour is scheduled for Tuesday, 4 May 2010, and is from 8 am until 4 pm. Mr. Steven Hack will plan to take the tour.

Mr. Sokolich said a State Scenic Byway program is already in existence in Talbot County, and that the County must apply to the federal government to be included in the National Scenic Byway. Mr. Ward Bucher suggested this should be another topic discussed with the County Council when they meet with TCHPC in June.

- C. SPRING ACTIVITY – Mr. Ward Bucher mentioned that the anniversary of the War of 1812 is coming up, and there are to be some celebratory activities at the Fort at Radcliff Manor. He wondered if TCHPC should be involved.

Mr. Steven Hack said he would like TCHPC to show owners of HDO properties some form of appreciation, perhaps in the form of a catered affair held at one of the HDO properties, and wondered if he should get some feedback from the property owners to see how many would be interested in hosting and/or attending such an event before initiating any definite plans. Mr. Earl suggested the possibility of an historic covered dish supper. Mr. Robert Arnouts commented that in consideration of the difficulty TCHPC has in scheduling the annual site visits, he did not think it is very likely that TCHPC would be able to get an HDO owner to host the affair.

NEXT MEETING: Monday, 7 June 2010 at 9:30 am in the Bradley Room in the South Wing of the Courthouse.

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS, THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED AT 10:35 am.