

# MINUTES

## TALBOT COUNTY HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

1 October 2012

### I. ROLL CALL

The regular monthly meeting of the Talbot County Historic Preservation Commission was called to order at 3:00 PM on Monday, 1 October 2012. Those members in attendance were Mr. Ward Bucher, Chair; Mrs. Marsha Kacher, Ms. Alice Marie Gravely, Mr. Robert Amdur and Mr. Ron B. Mitchell. Representing the County was Ms. Florence Ball.

### II. CURRENT BUSINESS

A. REVIEW MINUTES OF 10 SEPTEMBER 2012 TCHPC MEETING – The minutes of the 10 September meeting were read, and no corrections or additions were noted. Mrs. Marsha Kacher moved to approve the minutes as read; the motion was seconded by Ms. Alice Marie Gravely and was carried.

B. SAMPLE SURVEY MAILING STATUS – Ms. Florence Ball distributed copies of a memorandum prepared by Martin Sokolich that contained a tabular list of thirteen people who responded to the mailing, listing the property and a brief description of the type of response in each case. Also, attached, was a written response card from the owner of Long Point (T-335). It was noted on the memorandum that 30 pieces have been returned as undeliverable, which indicated the shortcomings of the data used to create the mailing list.

Mr. Ward Bucher read aloud the note from the owner of Long Point, who made it very clear that she and her husband were already maintaining the historic fabric of the property, and they did not feel the need for the additional protection that could be afforded by placing an Historic District Overlay on the property. It was discussed that many other owners of eligible historic properties probably share the same sentiments, and some of their reluctance may be an aftershock of the current recession in terms of mistrust of government. Ms. Florence Ball suggested it would be a good idea to ensure that those who responded to the survey receive an invitation to the next social event planned by TCHPC. The Commissioners agreed, and Ms. Alice Marie Gravely generously offered, once again, to host the next social event, tentatively planned for next spring.

C. STATUS UPDATE ON THE MILLERS HOUSE (T-70) – Mr. Ron Mitchell reported that the geo-tech report should be done by Thursday. The archaeologist completed his digging after five days. Mr. Mitchell said he is not sure if anything meaningful was found. The property had been disturbed in past years, so it was not a virgin archaeology site. A pocket of oyster shells was found, which Mr. Mitchell said may have led to the structural problems with the outer wall. Mr. Ward Bucher showed the Commissioners two types of bricks that came from the Millers House site and asked if they could

identify them. One was a hand-cast brick which predates the nineteenth century, and the other was a pressed brick which was produced in the nineteenth century.

Mr. Ron Mitchell said when the geo-tech report is received, it can then be determined if any underpinning will be needed to stabilize the wall. He said more funds need to be raised to continue the repairs. He added that a non-bearing interior wall has been removed and that a stacking party will be scheduled to sort bricks.

- D. CONTINUING EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS – This topic was not discussed at this time.
- E. TCHPC MEMBERSHIP STATUS – Mr. Ward Bucher asked if any news has been received from the County Council regarding appointments to fill the two empty Commission seats. Ms. Florence Ball said she has heard nothing to date. The group pondered whether any historians or archaeologists, who would be desirable candidates for appointment, live in Talbot County. However no one could think of any at the time.

### **III. NEW BUSINESS**

- A. PROPOSED WORK ON THE ORANGERY AT WYE HOUSE (T-54) – Mr. Ward Bucher said he was advised by Martin Sokolich that Richard Tilghman plans to submit a TCHPC work permit application for the proposed work at the Orangery to be reviewed by the Commissioners at the November meeting.
- B. SITE VISITS – Mr. Robert Amdur announced he will be out of town for the month of October, and should return by 1 November. He will try to arrange a site visit for October and will advise the Commissioners through email. He said he tried to arrange a visit to Crooked Intentions (T-48), but the owner said it was not convenient for TCHPC to come out in October, but a visit might be arranged for November.
- C. SALE OF DONCASTER (T-178) – No one had any updates on the status of the sale of Doncaster, which was recently put on the market. The Commissioners discussed concerns about how potential buyers of properties that have HDOs would be notified. Ms. Florence Ball told the Commissioners that efforts had been made in the past to make realtors more aware of the need to advise their clients about HDOs, including discussing with the County Attorney the possibility of recorded deed restrictions or covenants; however nothing concrete was ever accomplished to this end. The Commissioners briefly discussed the possibility of holding a seminar for area realtors, or inviting them to TCHPC social events.

NEXT MEETING: Monday, 5 November 2012, at 3:00 pm in Conference Room One of the Talbot County Office Building at 215 Bay Street in Easton.

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS, THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED AT 3:45 pm.

4 October 2012