

MINUTES

TALBOT COUNTY HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

1 March 2010

I. ROLL CALL

The regular monthly meeting of the Talbot County Historic Preservation Commission was called to order at 9:40 AM on Monday, 1 March 2010. Those members in attendance were Mr. Steven K. Hack, Chairperson, Ms. Peggy Pickall, Ms. Kathleen Kurtz, Mr. Robert Arnouts, Mr. Earl Segal and Mr. Ward Bucher. Mr. Eric Lowery was absent. Representing the County were Mr. Martin Sokolich, and Ms. Florence Ball.

II. CURRENT BUSINESS

- A. REVIEW 1 FEBRUARY 2010 MINUTES – The minutes from the meeting on 1 February 2010 were read. Since there were no corrections or additions, *Mr. Earl Segal moved to approve the minutes as read. The motion was seconded by Mr. Ward Bucher and unanimously carried.*
- B. STATUS OF REPORT TO COUNTY COUNCIL – Mr. Steven Hack asked if those Commissioners working on outlines for various parts of the report are finished. Those involved said they are still working on them. Mr. Hack said he plans to email his draft, which is still in progress, to the other Commissioners for their review and comment. Mr. Robert Arnouts said he would like to include a list of properties that could have been saved if the proposed Demolition Ordinance had been in effect. Ms. Peggy Pickall felt TCHPC should include in the report that the County Council should visit the Music Hall with TCHPC sometime in the near future. Mr. Earl Segal suggested it would be good to include in the report dollar amounts that tourism brings into the County coffers if those figures are available.
- C. 2010 TCHPC BUDGET – Mr. Steven Hack said there will be a County budget review meeting before the County Council on 9 March, and discussion of the TCHPC budget is scheduled for 6:55 pm. He commented that in the past, allocations for training has been minimal. This year, he would like to be able to purchase admission for all of the Commissioners to attend the Preservation Maryland Conference at the Tidewater Inn. Mr. Hack wondered if the County Council budget meeting might be an opportune time to try to generate the Council's interest in the Music Hall preservation project. Ms. Peggy Pickall advised emphatically that such an effort would be much better received at a future time when the Council is not busy with budgetary issues. Mr. Martin Sokolich once again outlined the specifics for formulating the budget: to set priorities, hold the line on the amount, and cut it by five percent if possible.

- D. OLD MUSIC HALL - Ms. Peggy Pickall said there is stenciling on the back wall of what is now the mechanical room which is still intact; however, she was told by the maintenance staff that pieces are always falling off of it. She is concerned that this historic artwork which embodies the original character of the Music Hall use will be forever lost if something is not done very soon to preserve it. The possibility of peeling the stenciling from the plaster and reapplying it to another surface was discussed. Mr. Ward Bucher commented that it would be a very difficult and expensive procedure, although there are specialists who do that type of thing. Ms. Kathleen Kurtz felt photo documentation of the stenciling would be much less expensive and more feasible. Mr. Robert Arnouts agreed, saying it would probably best be done by a photographer capable of scanning it and reproducing it with its true colors.

Mr. Martin Sokolich spoke of the report that was done by Retrospec, which he will forward to those Commissioners who were not members of TCHPC at the time it was initially distributed. Mr. Steven Hack said he felt another visit to the Music Hall should be arranged to examine the stenciling. He asked Ms. Peggy Pickall if she would write something about the Music Hall to include in the report to the County Council. Meanwhile, he will try to coordinate another visit to that space with the maintenance staff.

- E. MAY 20-21 PRESERVATION MARYLAND CONFERENCE AT THE TIDEWATER INN – Mr. Steven Hack said the tour planned for the Conference may include 925 Port Street. Ms. Peggy Pickall said she wonders if a quick storyboard might be assembled to post outside the house at 925 Port Street before the tour in May. Mr. Ward Bucher said Priscilla Morris is heading up the tour, and he felt she would be willing to coordinate that effort with TCHPC. Mr. Bucher also mentioned that he will be giving a talk on Historic Tax Credits at the conference.
- F. TCHPC MISSION STATEMENT, DUTIES – This topic was not discussed.

III. NEW BUSINESS

- A. REPORT ON FEBRUARY'S SITE VISIT AND ITINERERY FOR MARCH 15 – The site visit to 925 Port Street (T-163) was not discussed. The main purpose of that site visit was to acquaint the newer Commissioners with that property.

Mr. Steven Hack said a site visit to Fairview has been scheduled for 15 March 2010. Those attending are to meet at the Acme Parking lot in Easton at 9:15.

- B. SPRING ACTIVITY - Mr. Steven Hack once again mentioned the idea of an open house hosted by TCHPC. Ms. Peggy Pickall said a venue for the open house needs to be decided, and that 925 Port Street would be too dusty, and too limited a space to hold such an event.

Mr. Steven Hack entertained the possibility of doing a mass mailing to distribute information about TCHPC and foster interest among those historic properties which are not presently protected by an HDO. Mr. Robert Arnouts said it would not be feasible to do a mailing to every property owner in Talbot County. Ms. Peggy Pickall said it might be feasible to mail a brochure to all properties in the County which have an MHT listing. Mr. Steven Hack added that it would be good to have brochures available at the Preservation Maryland Conference in May. The need to assemble an appropriate brochure was briefly discussed.

MOTION – Mr. Steven Hack moved to develop a brochure to educate the public about Talbot County’s historic heritage and generate interest in what TCHPC does and the benefits of having an historic property protected under an HDO. The brochure would be mailed out to prospective HDO properties which already have an MHT listing. Mr. Ward Bucher seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously.

Mr. Robert Arnouts suggested looking at similar brochures to get ideas. The goal is to have the brochures done before the Preservation Maryland Conference in May. It was discussed that permission from HDO property owners would be needed if photographs of those properties would be included in the brochure. Mr. Martin Sokolich suggested showing just architectural details and not the entire buildings. Mr. Steven Hack said he will make some calls to see if any of the HDO property owners would be willing to allow their buildings to appear in the brochure.

IV. OPEN FLOOR

- A. IMPENDING RESIGNATION OF TCHPC COMMISSIONER – Ms. Kathleen Kurtz announced she will be resigning from the Commission effective 31 March 2010. She said she enjoyed the time she has served, but because of time constraints she felt she could no longer be an effectively active Commissioner. She said the first Monday in the month is inconvenient for those who are employed full time, particularly in the morning, and perhaps TCHPC should consider an alternate day and/or time to meet. The other Commissioners expressed their gratitude for her past contributions to TCHPC and wished her well.
- B. TCHPC MEETINGS – Mr. Steven Hack said he will try to limit future TCHPC meetings to an hour as much as possible.

NEXT MEETING: Monday, 5 APRIL 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 11:05 am.