

MINUTES

TALBOT COUNTY HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

2 April 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, 2 April 2012. Those members in attendance were Mr. Ward Bucher, Chairperson; Mrs. Marsha Kacher, Mr. Robert Amdur and Mr. Ron B. Mitchell. Ms. Alice Marie Gravely and Ms. Peggy Pickall were not in attendance. Representing the County were Mr. Martin Sokolich and Ms. Florence Ball.

II. CURRENT BUSINESS

- A. REVIEW MINUTES OF 5 March 2012 TCHPC MEETING – The minutes of the last meeting were read. A motion was made by Mr. Robert Amdur to approve the minutes as read. Mrs. Marsha Kacher seconded the motion and it was unanimously carried.
- B. LETTER FOR SAMPLE SURVEY – The Commissioners once again reviewed Mr. Ron Mitchell's draft of the letter for the sample survey. Various suggestions were discussed for editing the letter and what type of form should be enclosed for the recipient's response. Mr. Ward Bucher suggested including some photographs of homes that have Historic District Overlays. It was also discussed whether sending this letter is the right approach to encourage citizens owning historic properties to apply for HDOs. Mr. Ron Mitchell emphasized that the idea of the survey letter is not only to inform the public how they can protect the historic fabric of their homes, but to find out from them what it would take to make them want to apply for an HDO (such as tax credits). He explained that once the responses were tabulated, TCHPC would have something solid to present to the County Council to convince them to implement measures to make having an HDO more beneficial to the property owner. That could result in the acquisition of more HDO properties, which would be an economic asset to the County in terms of tourism alone.

Some of the other Commissioners felt the tone of the letter might not be conducive enough. Ms. Florence Ball suggested that perhaps a better approach would be to invite others to become part of an elite group in taking that extra step to preserve precious historic resources for future generations. After some further discussion, Mr. Ward Bucher said he will take the draft and put his spin on it. Mr. Martin Sokolich will assemble a template for the letter to include some photography, the header and footer so Mr. Bucher will know how much space he has so the letter will not exceed one page. Once Mr. Bucher has edited the letter, he will share it with the other Commissioners by email.

- C. STATUS OF TCHPC COLUMN IN SHORE LIFE MAGAZINE – Mr. Ward Bucher asked if anyone has seen copies of the magazines with the articles in them. Since the articles apparently have not yet hit the press, and no word has been received from the

editor, Mr. Bucher felt it might be best to wait until the publisher asks for another article before writing further items. The Commissioners were in agreement.

- D. LANDMARKS LIST SURVEY WORK – Mr. Ward Bucher said there is nothing new to discuss at this time regarding this topic.
- E. TRAINING SESSIONS FOR TCHPC COMMISSIONERS, AND EDUCATIONAL REQUIREMENTS – At the last meeting, Mr. Martin Sokolich advised that there is an education grant in the form of a scholarship that allows historic commissioners to attend the National Alliance of Preservation Commission forum in Norfolk Virginia in July 2012. The offer through the Certified Local Government (CLG) program would grant up to \$4,000 for commissioners and staff for educational expenses. However the deadline for the grant application was 30 March 2012.

Mr. Sokolich said he sent a reminder by email on 23 March, but did not get enough responses in time to beat the grant application deadline, so he had to pass on the larger grant, and instead applied for a \$1,000 grant that starts with the fiscal year on 1 July 2012. He said there will be two events in the upcoming months; the National Alliance of Preservation Commissions forum in Norfolk, VA in July, and an Historic Homeowners Expo on 28 April 2012 in Baltimore. That will provide two opportunities for required education credits where commissioners can get reimbursed. There will also be a Preservation Maryland conference next spring, but the details have not yet been received. Mr. Sokolich said he has an application in for a \$4,000 grant for an out-of-state conference next year. He reminded the Commissioners that getting an education credit for each commissioner is required to maintain CLG status.

III. NEW BUSINESS

- A. DISCUSSION OF SITE VISITS – Mr. Robert Amdur said he was unable to contact the property owner at Judith’s Garden (T-172), so he scheduled a site visit at Fairview (T-60) instead. Mrs. Marsha Kacher said the property was found to be in really good shape other than a downspout that had been blown down in a recent wind storm. She said the caretaker mentioned he intended to replace it immediately. Mr. Ron Mitchell said he observed chipped paint in a few places, but did not see anything major.

Mr. Robert Amdur said he will try to schedule a visit to Pleasant Valley (T-84) in June. It was discussed that since TCHPC is caught up on site visits for this year, April and May site visits could be skipped to give the Commissioners an opportunity to concentrate on other things such as the Landmark Survey work. Mr. Amdur will provide details for the visit to Pleasant Valley at the meeting in May.

- B. POTENTIAL HDOs – Mr. Martin Sokolich said Michael Bourne, AIA called him to express interest in the possibility of obtaining an Historic District Overlay for a group of four historic properties in Trappe; namely, Belmont (T-131), Jamaica Point (T-63), Cherry Grove (T-308) and Ingleside (T-313). Mr. Bourne, who also expressed interest in obtaining tax credits from the State, said he would speak to the property owners and will let Mr. Sokolich know if they are interested in applying.

NEXT MEETING: Monday, 7 May 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 4:15 pm.

4 April 2012