

MINUTES

TALBOT COUNTY HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

3 August 2009

I. ROLL CALL

The regular monthly meeting of the Talbot County Historic Preservation Commission was called to order at 9:37 AM on Monday, 6 July 2009. Those members in attendance were Ms. Peggy Pickall - Chairperson, Mrs. Christine Dayton, Ms. Kathleen Kurtz and Mr. Steven K. Hack. Mrs. Polly Shannahan, Mr. Robert Arnouts and Mr. Eric Lowery were not present. Representing the County were Mr. Martin Sokolich, and Ms. Florence Ball. Mrs. Stacey Dahlstrom, Planning Officer, arrived later during the meeting.

II. CURRENT BUSINESS

- A. REVIEW OF 6 JULY MINUTES - The minutes of the meeting on 6 July 2009 were read. Since there were no corrections or additions, *Mrs. Christine Dayton moved to approve the minutes as read. The motion was seconded by Steven Hack and unanimously carried.*
- B. POLLY SHANNAHAN'S RESIGNATION – Ms. Peggy Pickall said she wrote to Mrs. Polly Shannahan, expressing the sadness of TCHPC in response to her recent letter of resignation from the Commission, and to tell her how much she will be missed. *Mrs. Shannahan has been a paragon of dedication to the cause of historic preservation in Talbot County, and is one of the County's most venerable Commissioners.*

The Commissioners discussed how best to commemorate her many years of service and dedication to not only TCHPC, but to her collective tenures with other area Historic Commissions and organizations, and her unrelenting efforts to bring historic preservation to the forefront in Talbot County. It was decided that presenting her with a plaque similar to what was presented to Mrs. Joan DuPont a few years ago would be appropriate. There was some discussion about what should be included on the plaque. Ms. Peggy Pickall said she will contact the vendor and make arrangements to have the plaque prepared. Ms. Pickall suggested that perhaps it would be appropriate to further honor her during Preservation Month in May.

While on the subject of plaques, the plaque for George Brooks House (T-1120) was also discussed. The owner, Mr. William Workman, recently asked for the assistance of TCHPC in getting George Brooks House listed on the National Register of Historic Places. He also ordered a plaque for the historic structure. The Commissioners discussed what date should

appear on the plaque, expressing that several dates were associated with the building; date of construction, date of rehabilitation, etc, and that none of the dates were officially documented as being accurate. Mrs. Christine Dayton suggested calling Charles Goebel, AIA (*also a former TCHPC Commissioner*) who was Mr. Workman's architect at the time the rehabilitation was done, and who completed the application for tax credits, since whatever dates that were established then are probably considered official. She said typically, part 1 of that application gives the date(s) in the information that qualifies a structure for tax credits. Ms. Florence Ball suggested checking the dates in the documentation given on the MHT website. The Commissioner's decided it would be best to include both the date the house was built and the date it was renovated.

C. UPDATES:

1. DEMOLITION DELAY ORDINANCE – Since Mr. Robert Arnouts was not present and there was no further word from the County Attorney's office on the status of the ordinance as drafted, the topic was not discussed further at this time.
2. 925 PORT STREET (I-347) – Ms. Peggy Pickall said Mrs. Polly Shannahan told her she wants to see about establishing a park in the Port Street area. Ms. Pickall said she spoke to Rick Towle of the Department of Parks and Recreation, and he said he would be pleased to handle that. He said he must have an appropriate use in order to utilize Open Space funds for whatever project is proposed. Mrs. Christine Dayton said before Mr. Towle can justify spending funds on the house at 925 Port Street, an appropriate reuse for the house must be established and mentioned his earlier thoughts about using it for an office from which to rent kayaks for the waterfront park. She reiterated Mr. Robert Arnouts' suggestion from last month's meeting to use the house as a museum for the history surrounding the Port Street area.
3. TCHPC GUIDELINES – Ms. Peggy Pickall said TCHPC needs to decide how to organize the process of writing the guidelines. She said the guidelines must be done in-house because of budgetary insufficiencies. Ms. Florence Ball suggested that all the Commissioners should check the National Park Service website since there are specific helpful resources available dealing with compiling guidelines for historic commissions, as well as free online educational courses and many other helpful topics for historic commissions. She also suggested contacting Elizabeth Beckley of Preservation Maryland to explore what forms of assistance might be available from that organization.

4. TCHPC MISSION AND DUTIES – Ms. Peggy Pickall said a mission statement should be part of the guidelines, and the statement for TCHPC should emphasize promotion of historic preservation.

III. NEW BUSINESS

- A. UPCOMING SITE VISITS AND REPORT FROM JULY SITE VISITS – Ms. Peggy Pickall said she and Mr. Steven Hack visited The Weber House (T-818) and found it to be well maintained. The Anchorage (T-52) was also visited. The replacement roofing has been installed; however, because of cost constraints, Mr. Kemp had high profile asphalt roofing installed instead of the architectural rubber roofing that was previously planned for installation as approved by TCHPC. Ms. Pickall said Mr. Kemp was in a bind since he had major leaks, and had to move quickly on getting the roofing replaced in order to preserve the structure. It was agreed that it was more important to protect the structure overall, and that some day when the roof needs replacing again, a more suitable replacement might be feasible at that time. Ms. Pickall said Mr. Kemp wants to save one of the barns which is not within the HDO. He will be installing asphalt roofing on it as well. The barn was once a milking barn, but Mr. Kemp now uses it for storage of equipment.

Mr. Steven Hack said he has arranged site visits at Webley (T-214) and Wye House (T-54) for August 17th. He also plans to see if a site visit to Bolton can be arranged for the same day, since it is close to Webley. Mrs. Christine Dayton suggested rescheduling the visit to Wye House for September, since it is quite distant from Webley and Bolton. Mr. Hack said he will call the owner at Wye House to reschedule the site visit.

- B. ELECTION OF OFFICERS – Since there were only four Commissioners present at today’s meeting, the election was tabled until the meeting on 14 September. *(Because Labor Day holiday falls on September 7, the next regular TCHPC meeting will convene on the second Monday in September.)*

IV. OPEN FLOOR

- A. Mrs. Stacey Dahlstrom announced that she will be resigning as Planning Officer this month, and that 14 August will be her last day in that post. The Commissioners said they were sorry to hear that she will no longer be employed by Talbot County and that they will miss her. She was asked if she might like to become a TCHPC Commissioner, since she plans to continue living in Talbot County. She replied that she would be pleased to consider it. The Commissioners wished her well.

NEXT MEETING: Monday, 14 September 2009 at 9:30 am in the Bradley Room in the South Wing of the Courthouse. *(The first Monday, 7 September, is Labor Day holiday.)*

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS, THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED AT
10:45 am.

11 August 2009