

Cultural and Historic Affairs Committee
Meeting Minutes
January 10, 2012

The Bethany Beach Cultural and Historic Affairs Committee held a meeting on Tuesday, January 10, 2012 at 1:00 p.m. in the Town Meeting Room, 214 Garfield Parkway, Bethany Beach, DE 19930.

Members present: Carol Olmstead, who presided; Mary Lou McNerney; Mary Lou Urquhart; Margaret Young; Theo Loppatto; and Gloria Farrar

Absent: Jan Kinsella; Pamela Szypulski; and Jean Wode.

Also present: Joseph Healy, Councilperson; Lindsey Good, Administrative Secretary.

Call to Order

Ms. Olmstead called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

Approval of Minutes from the November 8, 2011 Meeting

After an amendment, Ms. Young made a motion to approve the minutes as amended. Ms. McNerney seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

Announcements

Ms. Olmstead reported that Mrs. Young recently visited with Mrs. Fowler. She is doing very well at her new home, and she will be greatly missed as a member of CHAC.

Review of Suggestions for Periers Recognition Day on July 27th

Mr. Joseph Healy gave a report on his trip to Periers, France in June.

He explained that there was a very nice reception to honor he and his wife as representatives Town of Bethany Beach as its Sister City, and everyone there was very kind. During the trip, he also visited the cemetery of the American soldiers and the town's meeting hall, which contained all of the photos from their visit to Bethany Beach.

Mr. Healy expressed that he appreciated all of the suggestions that the Committee made in regards to recognizing the anniversary of Liberation Day for Periers, France.

Ms. Olmstead recognized that this was a great and rewarding experience for Mr. Healy. She noted that the next step is to plan ways to recognize Liberations Day for Periers, France.

Ms. Olmstead suggested that Mr. Healy could be a speaker at a Cultural Event.

The Committee reviewed the list of ideas that they came up with at the last meeting.

The following ideas were discussed:

- It could be declared “Periers Day”, perhaps with Council approval..
- Ask local newspaper could write an article prior to the event and announce it as a day to recognize Periers, France.
- Local restaurants could be asked to participate by putting French items on their menus for the day.
- The French National Anthem could be played or sung in French on the Bandstand.
- A picture display could be created by CHAC members for the occasion and displayed in the lobby.
- Begin a scrapbook of Periers for the Museum.
- Advertise event at the Farmers Market the previous Sunday and fliers posted at the usual locations.
- E-mail the Mayor of Periers, France and other friends in Periers regarding the event.
- Fly the French Flags, and possibly a Town of Periers flag. Ms. Olmstead believes the Town currently has a French Flag..

Ms. Olmstead explained that once all of the plans are coordinated and in place, it can be reviewed by Council for approval. A Resolution could be adopted to recognize Periers Day.

Ms. Olmstead and the Committee expressed their appreciation to Mr. Healy for taking the time to talk about his visit to Periers, France and provide input for Periers Day on July 27th.

Discussion Regarding Possible Cultural Events

Ms. Olmstead suggested the following additional topic for a Cultural Event:

The Delaware News Journal published an article on places of historical significance within Delaware and the Delaware History Trail, recently established by Russ McCabe, was featured in the article.

The Committee members agreed that this would be a very interesting topic for a Cultural Event.

Ms. Farrar suggested that Mr. Tom Ryan could also be asked to speak about Women in the Civil War and the Big Four at a Cultural Event.

The Committee decided that these will be the two topics for Cultural Events and the topics discussed at the last meeting will be saved for another time.

Dates of Cultural Events

Ms. Farrar will contact Mr. Tom Ryan and see which Tuesday evening in March or April he is available. She will bring the information on the Cultural Event dates to the next meeting.

Ms. Olmstead noted that if he is available on a different day that is not a Tuesday, then that would be fine.

Ms. Olmstead stated that they can also ask local newspapers to write an article on the upcoming Cultural Events to advertise to the public.

Review Suggestions for Promoting Museum

Ms. Olmstead emphasized that the docent plans and schedules for the Museum need to be finalized.

The Committee decided that the Museum will be open during the following times:

- Wednesday evenings from 5:00 – 7:00 p.m. during the months of July and August.
- Saturdays from 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. during Spring and Fall: there be two (2) shifts, so each docent will work for two (2) hours.
- An hour or so before a Cultural Event takes place.

Ms. Farrar made a recommendation that an individual could be hired as a docent during holiday weekend.

Ms. Olmstead replied that this can be a future consideration.

Ms. Olmstead expressed that if the Museum will be opening in April, docents need to be scheduled soon. She added that they can advertise the request for docents in the newspapers and post fliers in the five (5) places throughout the Town (the Bank, Post Office, Town Hall, Bandstand, and South Coastal Library)

Video of Art Antal Interview

Ms. Olmstead presented the Oral History interview with Art Antal.

Adjourn

Ms. Loppatto made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Ms. McNerney, the motion was unanimously approved.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:12 p.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for February 7th, 2012.

Respectfully Submitted:

Lindsey Good, Admin. Secretary