

Cultural and Historic Affairs Committee  
Meeting Minutes  
May 12, 2015

The Bethany Beach Cultural and Historic Affairs Committee held a meeting at 2:00 p.m. on Tuesday, May 12, 2015, in the Bethany Beach Town Meeting Room, 214 Garfield Parkway, Bethany Beach, DE 19930.

Members present: Carol Olmstead, who presided; Carole Calef; Vicky Drury; Mary Lou Mc Nerney; Jan Kinsella; Margaret Young; Theo Loppatto; Mary Lou Urquhart and Julie Malewski, Events Director/Media Coordinator.

Absent Members: Cathy Davis; Lindsey Good, Administrative Secretary.

**Call to Order**

Ms. Olmstead called the meeting to order at 2:05 p.m.

**Approval of Minutes from April 14, 2015 meeting**

After four changes, Ms. Loppatto made a motion to approve the minutes as amended. The motion was seconded by Mary Lou Mc Nerney and unanimously approved.

**Announcements**

Ms. Olmstead stated that Lindsey will be leaving as of June 30, 2015. The Committee was grateful for her support and will miss her.

**Report Regarding Coastal Towns Museum Committee**

Ms. Olmstead reported that Ocean View does not own the house that they planned to host the museum in. Obtaining it could take 6 months – 1 year. Although not addressing detail planning at this time, the Committee is visiting other Town museums to gather ideas. Ms. Loppatto showed the coastal town "Take A Walk Back In Time" brochure and reported that the other towns are distributing them. Their next meeting is May 18<sup>th</sup>.

Ms. Olmstead noted that the path along the Assawoman Canal is in its first phase of construction. This project was started many years ago and will ultimately connect Ocean View and South Bethany along the Assawoman Canal.

**Final Wording for "Whispering Giant " plaque**

The wording has been approved with a minor typo correction. The Committee agreed to have a bronze plaque with image and description of Chief Little Owl made and placed in a location easily accessible for passersby. Ms. Olmstead will speak to Brett about where to best place the plaque.

**Citizen request for Historical Plaque for 1930's home**

Ms. Olmstead received a call about placing a historic marker at 118 Parkwood Street. The woman said she inherited the house from her mother who bought it in the 1980's. Ms. Olmstead asked if she knew the significance of the house since homes on the Bethany Heritage Trail must be built in 1930 or earlier. The woman said she lives in Tybee Island, Georgia where they have a historic preservation initiative to prevent over development. She asked why the Town of Bethany doesn't have the same. Ms. Olmstead explained that since the Town is only 100 years old, it really doesn't have a historic region. Ms. Loppatto suggested asking her to speak at a cultural event to discuss identifying historic locations and reigning in

development. Ms. Olmstead related that CHAC had addressed preservation several years ago and concluded it was not appropriate for Bethany. She asked the Committee members to look at the house and report their findings so she can respond to the woman in writing.

### **Historic marker at Journey's End**

Ms. Olmstead read the letter addressed to homeowner, Carolyn Hughes. The letter confirmed that placing the marker on site would not affect their property rights. It gave them the authority to move or remove the marker at any time. If the current owners do not want the marker displayed, we need to take the house off the Heritage Trail walking tour.

### **Update Regarding Ongoing Projects**

1. **Notecards:** are ready to be packaged and can be sold at the Seaside Craft Show and in the Town lobby.
2. **Kiosk:** Dan is replacing the 1962 Storm DVD with the oral history one. Ms. Olmstead will research the price of a 4-sided kiosk.
3. **News articles:** to be worked on in the fall
4. **Possible future events:**
  - a. Preview of Oral History DVD: The committee agreed that an open house to debut the film is a better way to go than the reception. Have it as a Sunday matinee in September, or start at 5 p.m., offer heavy refreshments, present copies to honor those featured in the DVD. Invite attendees to reminisce about old Bethany Beach.
  - b. First State National Monument: Ms. Olmstead suggested an event supporting Senator Carper's initiative establishing Delaware's National Park system. She will contact him to inquire regarding speaker availability.
  - c. Ghost Speaker: Ms. Malewski to research Mindie Burgoyne and Ed Okoniwicz. Ms. Drury said the Men's Club is hosting a ghost speaker this month.
  - d. Local "Historians": Ask others to share their stories. Ms. Olmstead said Tempe Steen has already agreed to speak. She recently donated a lifeguard jacket from the 1950's to be kept in the Town Museum. It will go nicely with the photos of lifeguards already in place.

### **Updated Historical Material on Town of Bethany Beach Website**

Ms. Malewski to see what she can do about consolidating the information into one page.

### **Town Hall Historical Pictures Project**

Ms. Drury has begun typing descriptions to slide into frames for mounting under the pictures.

### **Periers Day 2015**

All set with band and caricature artists. The Committee agreed it would be nice to give Christian a DVD and both packages of notecards to represent the Town on his visit. Ms. Olmstead will talk to Jim at Bethany Blues and Dana at Parkway to see if it would be beneficial to have restaurants participate with French-themed menu items. (It wasn't too successful previously.)

### **Adjourn at 4 p.m.**

The meeting was adjourned at 4:05 p.m. Next Meeting Date June 23, 2:00 p.m.