

**Cultural and Historical Affairs Committee  
Meeting Minutes  
August 25, 2015**

The Bethany Beach Cultural and Historic Affairs Committee held a meeting at 10:00 a.m. on Tuesday, August 25, 2015, in the Bethany Beach Town Meeting Room, 214 Garfield Parkway, Bethany Beach, DE 19930.

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

Absent Members: Vicky Drury; Mary Lou McNerney; Cathy Davis.

Also absent: Molly Daisey, Administrative Secretary

**Call to Order**

Ms. Olmstead called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m.

**Approval of Minutes from June 23, 2015 meeting**

After some minor changes, Ms. Young made a motion to approve the minutes as amended. The motion was seconded by Jan Kinsella and unanimously approved.

I. Announcements

- Cheryl Wisbrock, local artist partnered with Gallery One, gave Ms. Olmstead a framed picture of the painting she made of Val Montanari's house (next to the Drexler House). Ms. Olmstead suggested hanging it in the museum near the docent's desk.
- Ms. Olmstead reported that Périers Day was a success. She said that Christian Levaufre's speech was very warm, and she has a copy of it from Town Councilwoman Rosemary Hardiman.

II. Discussion/Review Regarding Current CHAC Projects

- a. News Articles – Ms. Calef, Ms. Kinsella, Ms. Urquhart, and Ms. Olmstead plan to meet to continue working on assembling the articles. September 8<sup>th</sup> is a possibility.
- b. Labeling of pictures in Town Hall –Vicky Drury had volunteered to head this project by copying and pasting the picture descriptions onto labels. Ms. Olmstead said she would call her to see if she was still interested. In the meantime, she assigned the project to Kelsey Jakubiak. Ms. Olmstead commented on how nice the labels look in Gallery One. They use clear, easy-peel labels that stick to the wall instead of mounted signs. She recommended using these instead of the holders that were already purchased. The two holder sizes that the committee

purchased are either too large or too small and decided a size in between for the labels would be the best way to go. Ms. Olmstead asked Ms. Jakubiak to look into buying the labels and printing them with the picture descriptions. Cliff Gravier approved of the idea but wants to see a sample first. Ms. Olmstead will see if the holders can be returned.

### III. Discussion Regarding Future Cultural Evenings

The committee discussed the following suggestions:

- a. How to research the history of your house – This could be offered as a public event to help the community identify their home as a historic home. Ms. Kinsella also suggested it as a private event to show the committee members how it's done to help with adding more plaques to the Trail.
- b. FEBRUARY event: Fort Miles – all agreed.
- c. MARCH ideas:
  - i. Treasures of the Delaware Public Archives – This was already presented as a cultural evening on February 28, 2013 by Tom Summers. Since only 25 showed up, the committee agreed to scrap the idea. Ms. Loppatto will check with the Delaware Public Archives for an updated list of programs available in March.
  - ii. National Park Service – Governor Carper's initiative
  - iii. 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Women's Civic Club of Bethany Beach – as noted in the Wave. Ms. Olmstead and Mrs. Young felt this would be something to recognize since the group is responsible for buying the Town's first lifeguard stand and benches as well as maintaining the gardens. This segued into a discussion about having Tempe Steen be the featured speaker. Her husband, Ron, recently donated a lifeguard jacket circa 1950s to the museum.
- d. DVD debut/presentation: The subject came up once and for all about hosting a luncheon or public screening of the DVD in Town Hall for those who participated in the video. Due to the logistics of getting the guests to such an event – e.g. parking, time of day, length of movie - Ms. Olmstead asked if it would be a better choice to write a letter, with gift DVD, to those featured in the DVD as a token of appreciation and thank you. Ms. Young agreed adding that they can then view the DVD in the privacy of their own home. The DVD is now on the kiosk in the museum for public viewing.

### IV. Discussion regarding possible additional historical plaques

- a. 118 Parkwood St. - Ms. Olmstead has not heard back from the owner regarding information and proof on the age of the home. A plaque cannot be issued without this documentation.

- b. Christian Church - Ms. Urquhart, as requested, spoke to Bud Kasten regarding our request to place a plaque at the building identified as the former "Clubhouse", built in the early 1900 's. CHAC had previously made this request which was not accepted by the Church at the time. Ms. Urquhart reported that it was suggested that perhaps a plaque describing the historical significance of the Christian Church for the Town of Bethany Beach would be more appropriate. The committee feels that the purpose of "A Walk Thru History" plaque program is to identify historical buildings in the town. Specifically those built 1930 or before. Ms. Urquhart also reported that a meeting will be held at the Church conference center sometime in October and it has been suggested that someone from CHAC come and personally present our request. Ms. Urquhart will attend if her schedule allows and Ms. Olmstead will attend and will also draft a letter explaining about the request and assuring that no property rights are involved in placing a plaque. That this is purely for public interest.
  
- c. 9 Pennsylvania Avenue – at Pennsylvania Avenue and Hollywood Street. Ms. Urquhart talked to the realtor about documentation for the house to see if it's historic. She will instead ask the realtor.

V. Museum Update

Although the museum does receive visitors (as evidenced by the guest log), marketing is needed to draw more visitors to the museum. It is designed to be a self-guided tour. Ms. Malewski offered to make fliers to post on Town boards and write a press release to generate interest to send to the Wave & Coastal Point. The committee agreed that it would be helpful to have a sign on the information desk identifying the museum.

V. Sub-Committees – Ms. Olmstead suggested that sub-committees would be helpful to manage projects. For example, she asked for volunteers to personally contact homeowners that have potentially historic homes then write a follow up letter to request documentation. Ms. Calef and Ms. Kinsella agreed to take this on. Others will be working on completing the old news articles scrapbook.

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 12:07 p.m. There will be no meeting in September. The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, October 13<sup>th</sup>. Mrs. Olmstead to confirm time.

Respectfully Submitted:

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