

Cultural and Historical Affairs Committee

Meeting Minutes

November 10, 2015

The Bethany Beach Cultural and Historic Affairs Committee held a meeting at 2:00 p.m. on Tuesday, November 11, 2015, in the Bethany Beach Town Meeting Room, 214 Garfield Parkway, Bethany Beach, DE 19930.

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

Absent Members: Cathy Davis.

Also present: Molly Daisey, Administrative Secretary.

Call to Order

Ms. Olmstead called the meeting to order at 2:11 p.m.

A. Approval of Minutes from October 13, 2015 meeting

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

B. Announcements

- The picture of Val Montanari's home is hanging in the museum by the desk.
- On Wednesday, October 21, Ed Okonowica presented "Haunted Lighthouse Tales and Sea Superstitions" was held in at Town Hall. The event was very well received, having about 80 people in attendance.
- Ms. Malewski is in the process of sending out letters to homeowners regarding placing historical markers at their home.
- The oral history DVDs have been mailed out.
- Ms. Malewski drafted a flyer to advertise the museum. It was passed around and everyone was pleased with the way it turned out.
- Ocean View Historical Society is having a fundraiser on Thursday, November 12 beginning at 5:00 p.m. at Café on 26. It is open to the public if anyone would like to attend.
- The Town Council will have a Workshop/Special Meeting on Monday, October 16. On the agenda is a presentation on the Dinker Cottage that is being donated to the Town. Carol will be attending the presentation, it is open to the public for anyone who would

like to attend. There is also a Coastal Town's Museum Meeting that day that Ms. Loppatto will be attending that meeting.

C. Review CHAC Mission Statement and Projects to Date

- A. The Cultural and Historical Affairs Committee's year runs from October to October. This being that start of a new year, Ms. Olmstead asked everyone to review the Mission Statement. If any changes are needed, it will need to be presented to Council. Everyone agreed that the Mission Statement needed no changes. Ms. Olmstead also asked that everyone verify their contact information and make any needed changes. As for the completed projects list, this list will need to be updated, many projects have been completed. Ms. Loppatto suggested that the participation with Coastal Town Museum's be added to list of ongoing projects. Ms. Kinsella added that Ms. Malewski's idea of possibly doing a guided walking tour. Ms. Malewski suggested that we could also create a new web page.

D. Update regarding Future Cultural Evenings

- A. Ms. Loppatto checked in the archives, we have previously only had three traveling exhibits. She has done some research and come up with several examples that may be of interest to the community. She read them off to the committee, Ms. Malewski will make copies and everyone can review them. If there was one in particular we were interested in doing, we would need to contact them for specific information regarding each exhibit. Ms. Olmstead would like to keep a running list of presenters/speakers that we have, and some details about their presentations.
- B. Ms. Malewski has a Fort Miles update. The speaker has agreed to speak in February. He would like to speak on a Thursday evening. All agreed that Thursday, February 18, 2016 would be a good date. Ms. Malewski will confirm this date with him. He has a video he would be able to bring with him and the presentation would be about one hour.
- C. Ms. Olmstead has not had much luck contacting someone regarding a presentation on the Historical Park. She is going to try contacting Karen McGrath at Senator Tom Carper's office.

E. Discussion regarding Future Coastal Towns Museum

- A. Ms. Olmstead & Mr. Loppatto attended the most recent Coastal Towns Museum Meeting and would like to advise the committee of the changes being made. Fenwick Island, Bethany Beach, South Bethany, Ocean View and Millville all had roles to to advise the Ocean View Historical Society to establish a museum that would be called The Coastal Towns Museum. It would document the history of each town, and the coast as a whole. Ocean View Historical Society has a house donated to them, in the future. They do not have the house yet. The house is adjacent to the property where Ocean View has erected a 'replica' of the town. (There is a replica of a Post Office and Chicken House on the property). All towns involved with Coastal Towns Museum were to fundraise for the museum, with all monies for that purpose alone. At first, there was to be a separate account for the money raised for the Museum from Ocean View Historical Society's account. At the last Coastal Towns Museum it was announced that all money raised will go into just the one account, which belongs to Ocean View Historical Society's. At one point in time Ocean View had hired a professional fundraiser to raise funds to build a museum. They raised about \$200,000. However, that money was used to build the 'replicas' that are on the property now. Any fundraising that the Cultural and Historical Affairs Committee does, that money would go to Ocean View Historical Society's account.

Ms. Loppatto made a motion that The Cultural and Historical Affairs Committee is happy to participate in fundraising activities for the renovations of the house that will become the Coastal Towns Museum with said monies designated for this purpose alone. Ms. McNerney seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

F. Review Current and Possible Future Projects

- A. Ms. Malewski will post the flyer advertising the museum in the 5 places around town. Ms. Olmstead will ask the Bethany Beach Ocean Suites about placing a flyer with their concierge.

B. Discussion regarding Letter from Periers

- A. The committee received an email from Christian Levaufre. He presented the gifts to the Mayor & Town Council. He also sent pictures. He is in the process of putting together a Travel Package to offer the citizen of Perier, France to visit Bethany Beach. He said that it would be wonderful if our citizens would open up their homes to them. Ms. Olmstead passed around a transcript of the speech he gave while he was here in July. Ms. Malewski mentioned that for Periers Day in summer of 2016 we should have an Army tribute band for the performace.

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 4:00 p.m. There will be no meeting in December. The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, January 12, 2016 at 2:00 p.m. Mrs. Olmstead will confirm this.

Respectfully Submitted:

Molly Daisey

Administrative Secretary