

Cultural and Historical Affairs Committee

Meeting Minutes

January 13, 2016

The Bethany Beach Cultural and Historic Affairs Committee held a meeting at 10:00 a.m. on Wednesday, January 13, 2016, in the Bethany Beach Town Meeting Room, 214 Garfield Parkway, Bethany Beach, DE 19930.

Members present: Carol Olmstead, who presided; Jan Kinsella; Mary Lou McNeerney; Carole Calef; Mary Lou Urquhart; Theo Loppatto; Margaret Young; 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 10:03 a.m.

I. Approval of Minutes from November 10, 2015 meeting

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

II. Announcements

III. Discussion regarding Small Museum Conference, February 14th – 16th, 2016

The Small Museum conference is being held in Ocean City, Maryland at the Clarion Hotel. Ms. Loppatto handed out the Conference Schedule. Ms. Olmstead and Ms. Loppatto attended the conference last year and became members. To become a member, all you must do is attend the conference. Ms. Olmstead asked that everyone review the Monday and Tuesday Sessions, there is no need for anyone to attend on Sunday. Ms. Young, Ms. Kinsella, Ms. Calef and Ms. Loppatto all expressed an interest in attending. Please review the Conference Schedule and email Ms. Olmstead what day/s you would like to attend.

IV. Discussion Regarding Donation of Dinker Cottage and Recommended Relocation

The Edgar Family has generously offered to donate their home to the Town. This committee discussed this home when it was first put up for sale. At this Friday's Town Council Meeting it will be decided if the Town accepts the donation, and where to relocate the home. To be clear, just the house is being donated, not the land. There are two options to where the home could be relocated, Maryland Avenue or Church/Neff property. The Town Manager sent out a letter on list serve with his suggestion to place the home on Maryland Avenue. It makes the most sense, being so accessible from Rt. 26. Ms. Kinsella questioned why in that letter the home would not be considered a Welcome Center. Ms. Olmstead replied that it is the Town Council who will make that decision, not CHAC. Ms. Loppatto commented that William A. Dinker was a founder of Bethany Beach, and the home shows the history of Bethany Beach and thinks the idea of turning it into a museum is wonderful and the Maryland Ave. is a great location. Mrs. Edgar says that visitors do walk up to the house and read the plaque out front. Yesterday Ms. Olmstead met with Mrs. Edgar and Ms. Dunn of the Delaware Historical Preservation Office. She would like to put the home on the Historical Preservation List National Registry. She took photos of the home and gathered information. She will get back with them if the house is eligible to be on the list. If the Town votes to accept the house, CHAC will be very involved. CHAC has been asked to donate the funds (\$46,300) to move the house. CHAC puts on the Sea Side Craft Show every year, and benefits from the booth fees. Right now there is about \$65,000 in our budget. Ms. Olmstead thinks this is a great way to spend CHAC's money. Ms. Young added that if the Town Council doesn't accept the house, it will be torn down. She thinks using the house for a museum is a great idea. Ms. Olmstead replied that the history of the house, is the history of the town. People do follow the National Registry list and make a point to go see these homes. Mrs. Loppatto commented that there is an old home in Lewes that was turned into a Museum, located on 2nd st. It would be a great example for us to follow. She has the name of the 'museum professional' who did the Lewes Museum. Mrs. Loppatto made a motion to donate funds to move the house if the Town Council accepts the house. This was seconded by Mrs. McNerney and unanimously approved.

Ms. Himmelberg (in the audience) commented that she believes this house needs to be in the most beautiful spot, which is not Maryland Ave. She feels it is too tight of a spot, concerned it will look cramped in. The Park across the street has a beautiful setting for it. Do we know other expenses associated with the house besides just moving it?

Ms. Olmstead replied that everything in total would be about \$100,000, plus, cost to move the sewer and that this will be discussed on Friday at the Town Council Meeting.

Tony Namrow (in the audience) thinks the numbers are way too low. He works in construction and is not confident in our numbers. Plus, all the shrubs will be gone if the house is moved.

Ms. Olmstead added that she thinks Maryland Ave is a great location for the house. It has sidewalks that people heavily use in the summer. It will get a lot of walk by traffic.

V. Discussion regarding Future Coastal Towns Museum

Ms. Olmstead and Mrs. Loppatto are the representatives from Bethany Beach on the CTM's committee. Ms. Loppatto met with Ed Mc Williams to look at the Evans-West House. Ocean View is still waiting on the actual donation of the house (it is a future donation) There were ideas of creating the landscaping to resemble the house when it was originally built. Because of the age of this house, the staircases are very narrow. There are several things that need to be done to comply with the 1992 Disability Act. For viewing the 2nd floor of the house, and not having to install an elevator, there could be a video played downstairs to show the 2nd level. Other idea to use in a museum, notebook with pictures, talking picture frame and quilts made from clothing during that time period that can be framed for display. This house still needs a lot of work. Much more work than the Dinker House needs. Evans-West house is also much older. Ms. Olmstead reminded everyone that this house belong to the Ocean View Historical Society. They have only been invited in as an advisory committee. However, the house will tell the story of all the towns.

VI. Discussion Regarding Possible Audio for Historical Homes Tour "A Walk Through History"

Ms. Olmstead told everyone that over the years there have been about dozen bronze markers placed at homes built before 1930. There are brochures at Town Hall that give you a tour of the homes. Liane Hansen approached Ms. Olmstead with an idea of creating an Audio Tour App that can be downloaded to your cell phone. We can definitely put more info on an app than in a brochure. Ms. Hansen has completed the "How to be a Tour Guide" class and also writes scripts for Audio Tour Guides. Everyone agreed that this was something to look into. Ms. Olmstead thinks it would be great for Ms. Hansen to do this. She has a lot of background in the area and has a radio voice. Ms. Malewski added that she uses an app to post events to. She had someone in mind she will speak to about this. Ms. Olmstead had asked Ms. Hansen to attend today's meeting, but she wasn't able to. She did inform Ms. Olmstead that if she did the audio, she would have to charge us something, but she would not charge much. Ms. Olmstead will stay in touch with Ms. Hansen and hopefully she can attend a future CHAC meeting.

VII. Discussion Regarding Upcoming Cultural Events

Thursday, February 18, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. there will be a Cultural Event: Fort Miles- Past, Present, Future at Town Hall by Dr. Gary Wray. Fort Miles was used as a military bunker in 1942. It's located in the sand dunes in Cape Henlopen, it is very large and has many rooms. In April, they host a Fort Miles Day. People dress up in 1940's clothing and they have bands playing 1940's music, and food. The event begins at 7:00 p.m.

Regarding future events, a presentation on how people can research the history of their homes would be an interesting topic to cover. Mrs. Dunn would be open to doing a workshop that would be open to the public. And she may not charge anything for the presentation.

Periers Day falls on a Wednesday this year. Ms. Malewski was thinking of having the Andrew Sisters Show to perform. They specialize in the music of the 1940's, 1950's and 1960's. Members of the 90th Infantry meet yearly in Texas, we may want to reach out to them to see about having member/s in attendance for Periers Day.

The press release for Fort Miles is going out now. There will be ads in the Coastal Point the Friday before the event and in the Wave the day before the event.

Ms. Olmstead asked if anyone felt there should be a meeting before the Fort Miles Event. However, if they need to have one, there will be one. Ms. Kinsella & Ms. Calef will be taking care of refreshments for the event.

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 11:26 a.m. The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for Tuesday, February 23, 2016 at 2:00 p.m. Mrs. Olmstead will confirm this.

Respectfully Submitted:

Molly Daisey

Administrative Secretary