

**Cultural and Historical Affairs Committee  
Meeting Minutes  
May 24, 2016**

The Bethany Beach Cultural and Historical Affairs Committee held a meeting at 10:00 a.m. on Tuesday, May 24, 2016, 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, Mary Lou Mc Nerney, Margaret Young, and Julie Malewski, Events Director/Media Coordinator.

Absent Members: Theo Loppatto, Cathy Davis.

Also absent: Molly Daisey, Administrative Secretary

**Call to Order**

Ms. Olmstead called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

**Approval of Minutes from April 12, 2016 meeting**

Ms. Young made a motion to approve the minutes. The motion was seconded by Ms. Calef and unanimously approved.

**I. Discussion/Review Regarding Cultural Evenings**

- a. April 19<sup>th</sup> – *Singing Workers: American Occupational Folksong*. Although flyers were posted, the Coastal Point did not run the ¼ page ad as reserved for Friday, April 15<sup>th</sup> and publish the submitted press release. The paper extended an apology for overlooking them both but unfortunately the event suffered with a poor turnout. (Only 25 showed versus the usual 80 – 100 that normally attend.)
- b. Suggested October program: *The People Who Stayed Behind: A History of the Indian People of Delaware, 1630-2008*. This is another program offered through the DE Humanities Forum. It will tie into the Town’s idea of hosting an “Indian Summer” event in the fall shoulder season. Ms. Olmstead already reached out to the speaker who is very interested. She will contact her to reserve October 18<sup>th</sup> or 25<sup>th</sup> depending on her availability.
- c. Mid-February of 2017: *National Park Service* and its historical background (Senator Carper’s initiative). Ms. Olmstead remains in touch with Senator Carper’s office and said the program has been delayed due to a pending roll out.

**II. Discussion regarding Périers Day, July 27<sup>th</sup>, 2016**

Ms. Olmstead met with Diana Cowell who suggested John Roman as a speaker for the event. Mr. Roman was in Normandy on D-Day. Ms. Olmstead spoke to Jerry Hardiman who is interviewing local WWII veterans for the VFW. He concurred with

the choice and will give Ms. Olmstead the name of any veterans interested in participating as an honored guest (to be acknowledged on stage by Mayor Gordon).

### **III. Update Regarding Dinker Cottage:**

- a. National Registry Application - Ms. Olmstead met with Madeline Dunn about getting the cottage on the National Historic Register. In order to be considered, the house must be in an approved location, be at least 50 years old and retain its original elements. These must be approved by the National Park Service. Since the house was moved in 1923 to its current location, it is eligible to be on the Registry. Ms. Dunn asked Ms. Olmstead to put together a small committee to work on the process. Mr. Cohen asked if any other homes in Bethany were on the Register and what the purpose was. Ms. Olmstead replied this would be the first time the Town will own one of these houses. All those on the Heritage Trail are privately owned. It will be a double process with the Errett Cottage which was begun but not completed. (Ms. Young confirmed that Errett is the only original house in Bethany belonging to the original owners. Ms. Dunn will get in touch with the Jane Vincente, Errett owner, to do a deeper assessment.) Ms. Olmstead added that it is an honor to be included in the Registry and of interest to tourists who visit these homes throughout the country.
- b. Future Town Plans – Step one of moving the house will be to move the sewer pipe to make room for the house. Step 2 will be to provide parking along Garfield Extension for visitors. The date of relocation is up to the Town, not to CHAC. CHAC will provide some funds from Seaside Craft Show proceeds. Ms. Young also said the Bethany Beach Historical Society is donating its remaining funds to the project = \$4,300. Ms. Olmstead acknowledged Mr. Cohen's (and neighbors') concerns about the location of the house but confirmed that everything the Town has done to date is beautiful and this will be no different with landscaped grounds, preserved architecture and no parking lot.

### **IV. Discussion Regarding Museum Docents & Heritage Trail**

- a. Guided Tours:
  - a. The committee likes the idea of having guided walking tours of the Heritage Trail on Wednesday mornings at 10:00. In order to get volunteers, Ms. Olmstead will ask former docents and would like to ask Lisa Kail about advertising on the website or via ListServ. She asked Mrs. Malewski to advertise in ongoing events calendars in both papers and issue a press release. Ms. Young has information on the homes that can be script for the guides.
  - b. Ms. Malewski said that John Apple offered the smaller trolley for the program as an option for those who can't walk the 2 mile tour.
  - c. Those interested can sign up in advance or show up that day.

b. 9 South Pennsylvania Avenue: Ms. Malewski spoke with the house's owner, Shawn Bellinger. He received an inquiry about including his house on the Trail and is very interested. She gave him the letter detailing the process and he said he would get back to her once he can verify the age of the home.

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 12:30 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, June 21st at 10:00 a.m.