

Cultural and Historical Affairs Committee
Meeting Minutes
July 13, 2016

The Bethany Beach Cultural and Historical Affairs Committee held a meeting at 2:00 p.m. on Wednesday, July 13, 2016, in the Bethany Beach Town Meeting Room, 214 Garfield Parkway, Bethany Beach, DE 19930.

Members present: Carol Olmstead, who presided; Mary Lou Urquhart, Theo Loppatto, Jan Kinsella, Margaret Young, Molly Daisey, Administrative Secretary, Shannon Kiley Intern for Julie Malewski.

Absent Members: Cathy Davis, Carole Calef, Mary Lou McNerney, Julie Malewski, Events Director/Media Coordinator.

Call to Order

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

I. Approval of Minutes from May 24, 2016 Meeting

Ms. Loppatto made a motion to approve the minutes as amended. The motion was seconded by Ms. Urquhart and unanimously approved.

II. Announcements

The Sea Side Craft Show was held on Saturday, June 6. It was a beautiful day and the event was successful. Many volunteers helped out. New this year was a tent that covered the information booth and a personalized 'Sea Side Craft Show' tablecloth.

III. Finalize Plans for Periers Day, July 27th

Ms. Olmstead spoke with the Mayor and John Roman and they are going to put together a program and send it to Town Council.

The Mayor will give a welcome speech and acknowledge the Town of Perier, France. John Roman was in Normady and will share brief memories from that day, he is an experienced speaker on this topic. Fulton Loppatto and Jerry Hardiman (Of the local VFW) have been collecting interviews from local WW2 Veterans. Ms. Olmstead will ask Mr. Hardiman about inviting several veterans to sit on the stage. They would be introduced and could state their position they had in the Army. Ms. Loppatto brought up the fact that if any veterans do accept this invitation, transportation would probably be needed and volunteered to help with that. As of today, there is no rain date for this event. There is another event being held at Town Hall at the same time, so that is not an option. Ms. Olmstead will speak to Ms. Malewski about a possible rain date.

IV. Request from ULLL Regarding Walking Tour of “Heritage Trail”

Ms. Olmstead received a phone call from the Lifelong Learning Institute about doing a guided walking tour of the homes in Bethany Beach that have historical plaques placed in front of the homes. It will take place September 20 from about 10:45 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. They usually have about 20 people sign up. They also requested, if possible, someone to serve as the tour guide and give an introduction how these homes were identified and how the plaques were created. Ms. Olmstead suggested they meet at Town Hall to meet in the museum. CHAC will meet again before this happens and can decide more specifics.

V. Further Discussion Regarding Docent Program

Ms. Olmstead will continue discussions with Ms. Malewski when she is back in the office regarding the docents for the walking tour. The fall would be a great time to start the Docent Program, there's still enough people in town and it's not as busy, or as hot. Walking Tours would be offered once a week, April through October. Everyone still agrees that this is a wonderful idea.

VI. Update on Dinker Cottage & National Registry

At the end of May, Madeline Dunn called for a meeting with Ms. Olmstead and Ms. Edgar, and asked that two people from the Errett house be present. . She would like to put the Dinker Cottage and the Errett House on the Registry at the same time. Both homes were built around the same time and similar locations. When Ms. Dunn toured the Dinker Cottage she was very pleased with the condition it was in, calling it a gem. The Errett family did at one point start this process, however have not completed it. Ms. Dunn went over the steps needed to be put on the registry and wanted to let them know that this is a time consuming process that cannot be rushed. It usually takes about six months to a year to gather all the information, then goes before the State Preservation Board. Once the house is on the registry, it will be known as the Edgar House. Ms. Olmstead will continue working on this process with the Errett's and Edgar's.

The Town is currently waiting for approval to move the sewer lines, which should be completed shortly. Once approved the Town will contact the company that is moving the house and get a time frame. After these steps are completed, CHAC will begin discussions on what type of museum this will be. Ms. Olmstead has the contact info for the lady that did the Lewes Museum. She will reach out to her for assistance/help when the time arrives. The Dinker Cottage will be moved about 150 feet to the west, which will assist in getting house on the registry according to Madeline Dunn.

VII. Set Date for Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, September 13 at 10:00 a.m.

VIII. Adjourn

Ms. Young made a motion to adjourn the Meeting. Seconded by Ms. Loppatto, the motion was unanimously approved. The meeting was adjourned at 3:14 p.m.