

**Cultural and Historical Affairs Committee
Meeting Minutes
September 13, 2016**

The Bethany Beach Cultural and Historical Affairs Committee held a meeting at 10:00 a.m. on Tuesday, 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, Carole Calef, Mary Lou McNerney, Julie Malewski, Events Director/Media Coordinator.

Absent Members: Molly Daisey, Administrative Secretary

Guest: Mrs. Tina Edgar

Call to Order

Ms. Olmstead called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. and announced that Mrs. Edgar will be joining the committee.

I. Approval of Minutes from July 13, 2016 Meeting

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

II. Discussion Regarding Périers Day

a. Review 2016 – All agreed that this year's Périers Day celebration was a big success. Ms. Malewski showed a rough draft video that she and John Apple put together of highlights from the event. She also said she took many photos. Ms. Olmstead suggested sending a thank you package with photos and a final version of the video to John Roman (speaker) on behalf of the Town and CHAC. The committee agreed. Diana Cowell also requested a copy since she and her husband were in France at the time of the event.

b. Initial Plans for 2017 – Next year's event will be held on Thursday, July 27th. Ms. Olmstead read an email sent to her by Diana Cowell regarding next year. She said 7 couples and 1 individual, including the Mayor, will be coming from France July 25 - 29. (Henry LeFavre and his wife will not be able to travel.) The group will be visiting New York City, Bethany Beach, and Washington D.C. They are looking for host families for their stay in Bethany. This means 8 homes, 1 for each couple and 1 individual. Diana already volunteered her home. In order for the committee to help find more host families, the following need to be addressed:

1. **What are the exact dates they will be in Bethany Beach?**
2. **How many speak French only?** (Will help in matching them with homeowners)

3. **Do any visitors have special needs to consider?** (Physical? Dietary? Etc.)

4. **How soon should the search begin?** The committee felt now is too soon off the summer season to start advertising for hosts. However, January might be too late for those that leave for Florida. There is also concern since their visit falls on the date of the Cottage Home tour. The appeal will go out to Bethany Beach full time residents who will be available to the families during their stay.

5. **What is the itinerary?** A similar group initially came in 2011 to solidify the sister-city relationship between Périers and Bethany Beach. They went on a tour of Fort Miles and a tour of the Town including the Nature Center. They also attended a cocktail reception, dinner at the Blue Crab, and a bandstand concert where a French singer sang the French national anthem. The projected timeline is Day 1 – arrival; Days 2 & 3 – events; Day 4 – departure. The committee also suggested the Botanical Gardens, the Fenwick Lighthouse, and the Lifesaving Station as additional tour options. Ms. Olmstead pointed out that they may not want to have all of their time structured.

6. **What is required of the host family?** Ms. Loppatto was a previous host family for Operation Seas the Day. Expectations to include:

1. Have a fully equipped home – separate bedroom and bath; towels, sheets, etc.
2. Transport the soldier families to and from OSTD events and attend if requested
3. Provide breakfast

Action items:

- Ms. Olmstead to research answers to the above questions and meet with Mr. Gravier and Mayor Gordon to develop a timeline.
- Ms. Loppatto to put together a detailed list of host family requirements as a reference guide.
- Ms. Malewski to draft a statement/flyer to use for recruiting host families. This will be reviewed by the committee at the next meeting and, upon approval, will be posted on the website and applicable marketing channels (Facebook, Twitter, List Serv, newspapers, etc.)

III. Discussion Regarding ULLL “Heritage Trail” Program on September 20th

Ms. Olmstead has not heard from the Lifelong Learning Institute about the guided walking tour. However, it is scheduled to take place September 20th from about 10:45 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. She will contact them to confirm and find out how many people are signed up. She also asked the committee for volunteers to be a tour guide and give an introduction on how these homes were identified and how the plaques were created. Ms. Olmstead, Ms. Malewski, and Ms. Young volunteered. There will be a brief orientation in the Town Council room followed by the tour. The committee liked the idea of using the trolley since it would assist those who can’t walk the full tour and also stay within the one hour time allotted. Ms. Olmstead will confirm the trolley/driver availability with John Apple and ask Brett Warner to clean the plaques.

IV. Discussion Regarding Docent Program

The committee tabled this discussion until the spring.

V. Discussion Regarding Future Cultural Evenings

a. History of the Indian People of Delaware – Suggested date is 10/18. Ms. Olmstead to contact the speaker to inquire about availability.

b. DE Public Archives ?– More Treasures of the Archives.

Ms. Olmstead recommended that the committee join the Delaware Humanities Forum. Members pay an annual membership fee plus \$50 every time there is a speaker. That is a big discount from the non-member fee. Ms. Loppatto made a motion to join. Ms. Young seconded. All agreed.

VI. Update on Dinker Cottage and National Registry

The Town is still waiting for approval to move the sewer lines for the Dinker House relocation. Mrs. Edgar offered to contact the sewer company for a status update since they've been waiting since January. Once approved the process of moving the house should be a quick one, making it that much closer to getting on the National registry.

VI. Set Date for Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, October 11 at 10:00 a.m.

VII. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 11:56 a.m.