

Cultural and Historic Affairs Committee
Meeting Minutes
March 08, 2011

The Bethany Beach Cultural and Historical Affairs Committee held a meeting on Tuesday, March 08, 2011 at 1:00 p.m. in the Town Meeting Room, 214 Garfield Parkway. Bethany Beach, DE 19930.

Members Present: Carol Olmstead, who presided; Margaret Young, Jane Fowler, Theo Loppatto, Mary Lou McNerney; Pamela Szypulski; Jean Wode; and Gloria Farrar.

Excused Members: Pat Rogers and Mary Lou Urquhart.

Also Present: Lindsey Shallcross, Administrative Secretary.

Call to Order

Ms. Olmstead called the meeting to order at 1:06 p.m.

Approval of Minutes from the February 08, 2011 Meeting

After a couple of amendments, Ms. Wode made a motion to approve the minutes as amended. Ms. Young seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

Announcements

Report on 2011 Seaside Craft Show

Ms. Olmstead reported that 108 Craft Show applications were received and there will be a total of 103 crafters at the event, including non-profits. \$15,006 was received from booth fees.

The Craft Show will take place on June 4, 2011.

Committee Input Regarding Additional “Historical Homes”

Ms. Farrar stated that she saw a house that may be considered historical. The house is located on Maplewood Street.

The Committee ensued a discussion on the Addy house being for sale and what would be done if it was to be knocked down.

Ms. Farrar made a suggestion to add verbiage onto the plaque to state that it was a former historical site if the house is knocked down.

Ms. Olmstead advised that it had been previously decided that only homes that are in original structure are eligible for a plaque. If the historical house is no longer on the property, the plaque will be removed.

Ms. Wode noted that a copy of the original contracts which states when the house was sold/built may be available.

Ms. Olmstead acknowledged that the owners will most likely know the year the house was built but they might not know who the original owners were. If the owners cannot supply the information, it can be researched.

Drexler Plaque Location and Proposal

Ms. Olmstead explained that she revised the format of the wording for the Drexler Plaque since the last CHAC meeting.

The amended wording is as follows:

*“In honor of Ensign Henry Clay Drexler USN
Awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor
and the Navy Cross
For bravery in attempting to save his shipmates,
at the cost of his own life, during an explosion
aboard the U.S.S. Trenton on October 24, 1924.
Ensign Drexler grew up in Bethany Beach and
was the son of Delaware State Senator Louis Drexler.”*

The Committee agreed that the amended wording is clearer to understand.

The Committee ensued a discussion on whether the word “Congressional” is necessary to include in the wording on the plaque. It was decided include the word “Congressional”, since it emphasizes the significance of the award.

The Drexler plaque will be blue with bronze wording, and it will be placed in front of the flower garden at the Loop Canal Park.

Ms. Olmstead then explained that the wording on the Loop Canal plaque must be six inches wide by ten inches long (6” by 10”). The Committee members felt that this size for the text will be good.

Ms. Olmstead said that the plaque will probably be ready by next month.

Ms. Fowler made a suggestion to hold a ceremony when the Drexler Plaque is installed. She added that Public Officials could be invited.

The Committee agreed that this would be a very good idea.

Ms. Olmstead recommended that any relatives of Henry Drexler should also be invited.

Ms. Olmstead acknowledged that this idea should be brought forth to the Town Manager since the event will involve much of the Town staff (Police Department, Parking, etc.).

Ms. Farrar suggested to have a leave way for when the plaque arrives and then to develop a sub-committee.

Ms. Olmstead advised to table this discussion until next month.

Plan for April 12th Cultural Event

A Cultural Event with guest speaker Mr. Thomas Ryan is scheduled for April 12th at 7:00 p.m. He will give a presentation on Delaware and the Civil War.

Ms. Farrar sent Mr. Ryan a contract which stated that his presentation must incorporate information on Delaware and the Civil War.

Ms. Olmstead stated that this event should be advertised in the following ways:

- Advertise in the local newspapers on the Thursday before April 12th and ask the Coastal Point to write an article on the event beforehand.
- Ms. Farrar will create a poster to post around Town and put on the Town's website – she will send the notice to Ms. Lisa Kail, Town Clerk, to put on the Website.
- Send out the advertisement on the list serv.

The Committee discussed what types of refreshments to have during the event. Ms. Young offered to bake cookies and Ms. Wode offered to make brownies. Coffee, lemonade, water, pretzels, etc. will also be available. The Town will provide the utensils and paper ware.

Committee Review of Oral History Interviews

The Committee listened to the following interviewees and discussed which information was appropriate to go on the DVD's:

1.) Jane McCabe

- Her sister's Polio disease and family's decision to move to Ocean View.
- Chatter Box Group.
- Her family's bowling alley.
- Her father being president of the Bethany Beach Volunteer Fire Company.

2.) Sally Fitzgerald

- Her husband in Bethany Beach in 1942.
- Hump on Boardwalk for carriages.
- Dairy farm in location where Bethany West is now.
- Goat farm.
- Peanut stand.
- "Schoitai" story.
- Ms. Olmstead suggested that Mr. Disney should be advised to keep the interviews under twenty minutes in length.

Motion to Adjourn

Ms. Loppatto made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Ms. Szypulski, the motion was unanimously approved.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:10 p.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for April 12, 2011.

Respectfully Submitted:

Lindsey Shallcross, Admin. Secretary