

**Cultural and Historic Affairs Committee**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**April 12, 2011**

The Bethany Beach Cultural and Historic Affairs Committee held a meeting on Tuesday, April 12, 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 Mc Nerney; Mary Lou Urquhart; and Gloria Farrar.

Excused Members: Pat Rogers; Jean Wode; and Pamela Szypulski.

Also Present: Lindsey Shallcross, Administrative Secretary.

Call to Order

Ms. Olmstead called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

Approval of Minutes from the March 08, 2011 Meeting

After a couple of amendments, Ms. Fowler made a motion to approve the minutes as amended. Seconded by Ms. Loppatto, the motion was unanimously approved.

Healy Plaques

*Expected Dates for Arrival of Drexler and Loop Canal Plaques*

Ms. Olmstead stated the plaque proofs should be delivered by the end of April. She noted that Healy Bros. recommended different verbage for the Loop Canal plaque.

Ms. Olmstead distributed the paper proof of the Drexler plaque and the Committee expressed that it was well done.

*Input Regarding Possible Plaques for Historic Homes*

Ms. Farrar explained that she emailed the contact person for a possible historical home, but has not yet received a response back.

Discussion/Planning Regarding Ceremony for Drexler Plaque

Ms. Olmstead explained that Mayor McClenny said that it does not have to be approved by the Town Council, but that they just have to be aware of the event, and it was recommended that Memorial Day Weekend would not be a good time to have it.

Ms. Fowler suggested that the event could be held on Armed Forces Day, which is on May 21<sup>st</sup> or on Flag Day, June 14<sup>th</sup>.

The Committee expressed interest on holding the ceremony on Armed Forces Day, or on the day before.

Ms. Olmstead advised that it is a good idea for the event to take place before summer.

Ms. Fowler suggested that someone can play an instrument during the ceremony or a small school band can perform.

Ms. Loppatto mentioned that the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) has an honor guard, and she can contact them to explain the ceremony that will be taking place and ask for any suggestions that they may have regarding the event.

Ms. Olmstead advised that Senator George Bunting and other local leaders should be notified of this occasion. She added that Senator Paul Cathell, Jr. is the President of the State Historical Association of the Medal of Honors.

Ms. Fowler noted that author Roger Martin who wrote the book “Delaware’s Medal of Honor Recipients” and he also wrote various histories, would like to be notified of the event.

Ms. Fowler recommended that the Committee should discuss and vote on sending out invitations to the Senator, Governor, etc.

Ms. Olmstead advised that a letter should be composed and mailed to Senator Bunting, Senator Coons, Representative Hocker, Representative Carney, and Governor Markell that explains the award and the plaque ceremony, and acknowledges that the Town would be honored if they attend.

Ms. Loppatto suggested the letter also be mailed to Mayors of surrounding towns and be advertised in the newspaper.

Ms. Olmstead is going to compose the letter and e-mail it to the Committee members to review.

Ms. Olmstead recommended that Senator Bunting give a speech at the ceremony. Other Delaware leaders that are present may want to speak as well.

The Committee discussed the following items that should be included in the program for the ceremony:

- Mayor McClenny can welcome and acknowledge all of those in attendance.
- Senator Bunting may give a speech on the background of Henry Drexler and why he is being honored.
- Other Delaware leaders may speak.

The ceremony will most likely be held at 2:00 p.m.

The Committee decided to hold a special meeting on April 26<sup>th</sup> to further discuss the ceremony for the Drexler Plaque ceremony.

### Civil War Cultural Evening (tonight)

Ms. Olmstead reported that the downstairs meeting room is all set up for the Cultural Event, which is taking place at 7:00 p.m. this evening.

Ms. Farrar is going to give an introduction at the beginning of the event and then Mr. Thomas Ryan will give a presentation on Delaware and the Civil War.

### Summer Docent Program

Ms. Olmstead advised that the Committee postpone discussing this agenda item until the next meeting, so they can have time to move forward with listening to the Oral History Interviews.

### Continue Editing of Completed Oral History Interviews

Ms. Olmstead stated that thirteen (13) interviews have been completed and eleven (11) individuals still need to be interviewed.

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

#### 1.) Ronald Steen

- Sand was hauled from Lake Bethany to the beach in 1962.
- How his beach umbrella stand business developed and grew.
- Description of his lifeguard rescue and his lifeguard story.

#### 2.) Margaret Young

- The beaches were patrolled by soldiers with police dogs.
- Judge Curren was instrumental in building the St. Anne's Church as his promise to God.
- The streets were paved with clay from 1946 – 1950, which melted when it rained and children played with.

Ms. Olmstead noted that she is going to contact Mr. Disney and advise him to reduce the length of each interview to (20) minutes or less.

### Motion to Adjourn

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

The meeting was adjourned at 3:06 p.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for April 26, 2011.

Respectfully Submitted:

---

Lindsey Shallcross, Admin. Secretary

