

Cultural and Historic Affairs Committee
Meeting Minutes
April 26, 2011

The Bethany Beach Cultural and Historic Affairs Committee held a meeting on Tuesday, April 26, 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 Urquhart; and Gloria Farrar.

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

Also present: Lindsey Shallcross, Administrative Secretary.

Ms. Olmstead stated that the purpose of this meeting was to discuss further plans for a program on the occasion of the installation of a plaque honoring Medal of Honor recipient, Henry Clay Drexler.

Ms. Olmstead reported that the Henry Drexler Plaque will be arriving today.

Ms. Young explained that she contacted Commander John Mitchell of the VFW and discussed the plaque ceremony with him. She said that he is very interested and supportive about the awards ceremony, and he will contact her again next week. She added that he was not aware of Henry Drexler receiving a Medal of Honor, so she gave him a copy of the Drexler briefing material for him to review.

The Committee ensued a discussion on what date the ceremony should be held. It was currently decided to have the ceremony on June 14th, which is Flag Day, at 3:00 p.m. The other optional date will be June 8th, incase the VFW won't be able to attend on June 14th.

Ms. Farrar has suggested that the American Legion be contacted in regards to holding the ceremony on Memorial Day Weekend.

Ms. Olmstead stated that Mayor McClenny advised that the ceremony not be held on Memorial Day Weekend.

The definite date and time of the event will be set at the May meeting.

Ms. Olmstead distributed the draft letter she composed to be sent to certain individuals so the Committee members could review it for any possible changes. She noted that the final letter will go on Town Letterhead paper and should be signed by the Mayor.

Ms. Loppatto questioned whether a RSVP date should be included in the letter, so they can be aware of who wants to speak.

Ms. Olmstead acknowledged that those who are speaking at the ceremony should be aware of it ahead of time, but a certain RSVP date probably doesn't need to be included.

The Committee discussed whether or not to send a separate invitation with the letter to those who are being asked to speak, and decided that it can be incorporated into the letter.

Ms. Young presented a list of individuals to consider sending a letter to. The Committee thanked Ms. Young in her efforts and good work.

The order of the items to go on the program for the ceremony were discussed:

- I. Honor Guards stand next to the plaque as it is being presented.
- II. Those who are giving speeches.
- III. Honor guards will blow the taps.

Ms. Olmstead expressed that Mrs. Pat Rogers husband, Ray Rogers, could play a patriotic song on the trumpet as the honor guard walks up to the plaque. Ms. Young is going to discuss this idea with Mr. and Mrs. Rogers.

Ms. Farrar noted that Mayor McClenny could introduce each of the speakers during the ceremony.

The ceremony will be advertised in two (2) local newspapers and the News Journal prior to the event.

Ms. Fowler is going to create a one-page handout on Henry Drexler to distribute at the ceremony.

At the end of the meeting, the Committee took time to look at the Drexler plaque, which they felt was very well done.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Admin. Secretary/Assistant Town Clerk