



**SUMMARY MINUTES**

March 14, 2024

5:00 p.m.

The Kent County Historic Preservation Commission met on Thursday, March 14, 2024, at 5:00 p.m. in the County Commissioners' Hearing Room at 400 High Street, Chestertown, Maryland.

The following members were in attendance: Chair Elizabeth Beckley, Chair's Designee Jennifer Moore, John Lysinger, Max Ruehrmund III (remotely), and Melinda Zupon (remotely).

Architect Tammy Brice, Contractor Bob Coleman, and Contractor Colby Brice were in attendance in person to discuss the demolition of the farmhouse at Brice's Mill. Mr. Porter Durham, property owner, attended remotely.

Staff in attendance were William Mackey, AICP, Director; and Tyler Arnold, GIS Coordinator. Cynthia L. McCann, Esq. was present to represent staff.

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Elizabeth Beckley called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

**ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

Jeremy Rothwell was elected Chair and Jennifer Moore was elected Vice Chair by unanimous votes.

**MINUTES**

Mr. Ruehrmund moved, and Ms. Beckley seconded approval of the minutes for June 22, 2023, as presented.

**GENERAL DISCUSSION**

*Welcome and Orientation for New Members*

The Commission welcomed new members John Lysinger and Darius Johnson. Staff provided an overview of key documents and the Historic Preservation Commission's role.

*Brice's Mill Farm*

The property owners and project representatives discussed the circumstances that led to the demolition of the historic house due to structural instability and safety concerns after attempts to stabilize it. Commission members expressed regret about the loss of the resource but acknowledged the challenges faced. The owners shared plans to rebuild using salvaged materials and historic techniques where feasible.

*Cypress Branch Dam Removal Project*

The Commission reviewed the Memorandum of Agreement for the project. While expressing support for ecological restoration goals, members emphasized the need for appropriate mitigation measures such as interpretive signage, documentation, and potential National Register nomination. Mr. Mackey will convey these comments and request key documents.

Ms. Beckley moved that present members do not oppose the demolition of the Cypress Creek Dam (K-170), that members request (a) the signed MOA for the record from MHT, (b) subsequent reports generated by agencies for the record, (c) that adequate signage be provided, and noting that the dam was eligible for listing on the National Register under Criterion A. Vice Chair Moore seconded the motion. The Commission voted unanimously in favor.

*Trileaf Section 106 Review--Rock Hall Water Tower*

The Commission voted unanimously to request consulting party status in the Section 106 review process for the proposed antenna installation on the water tower.

Vice Chair Moore moved that Planning staff advise TriLeaf engineering firm that the HPC does wish to be added as a consulting part on the project. Ms. Beckley seconded.

The Commission discussed the process by which the County would receive a Section 106 review request. Requests submitted to the Planning Office would be forwarded to the Historic Preservation Commission when received.

**STAFF REPORTS**

Staff provided brief updates on the Morgnec Road solar array including landscaping requirements for the facility, the upcoming demolition of the Granary building, and the training requirements under the Open Meetings Act.

**ADJOURN**

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 6:57 p.m. The next meeting will be scheduled within 30-45 days.

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