

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
BOARD OF TRUSTEES' MEETING
Thursday, July 21, 2022 at 10:00 AM

Pursuant to notice, the regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Maryland Historical Trust was held at the Port Tobacco Courthouse located at 8430 Commerce Street, Port Tobacco, Maryland.

Trustees present: Sarah Kunkel Filkins, Robert R. Neall, Barbara Paca, Samuel J. Parker, Jr., and Franklin A. Robinson, Jr.

Trustees participating virtually: Shelia Bashiri, Joshua D. Brown, Jeffrey Buchheit, James Delgado, Julie Earnstein, Albert L. Feldstein, J. Rodney Little, and Laura Davis Mears.

Area Representatives present: W. Dickerson Charlton, Sakinah Linder, Lisa Sasser, Harry T. Spikes, II, and Kirsti Uunila.

Area Representatives participating virtually: Martin Azola, Dean R. Camlin, Douglass C. Reed, and Charles A. Stek.

Ex Officio members present: Delegate Gilchrist.

Maryland Department of Planning: Robert S. McCord, Secretary.

Office of the Attorney General: Rieyn DeLony.

MHT Staff: Gregory Brown, Elizabeth Hughes, Collin Ingraham, Casey Squyres.

Guests: Jim Dunbar, Confederate Memorial Park, Inc.; Christine Crocco Dunbar, Elizabeth Groszer, Terry Klima, Mary Klima, Clarence Woods, Liam Grogan.

AGENDA

C1 CALL TO ORDER

Vice Chair Franklin Robinson called the meeting to order at 10:10 AM.

Mr. Robinson thanked the Society for the Restoration of Port Tobacco for hosting the Maryland Historical Trust (MHT) Board of Trustees meeting. Joyce Edelen welcomed the Board to the Port Tobacco Courthouse and provided a brief history of the building and the surrounding village.

C2 APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Ms. Uunila made a motion, seconded by Mr. Parker, to approve the May 12 meeting minutes with corrections. The Board voted unanimously to approve the minutes.

C3

PUBLIC COMMENT

Ms. Liz Groszer commented that she is seeking additional information regarding the Baltimore Confederate Monuments. In particular, she wishes to know if and how the Maryland State Arts Council is involved with the monuments and why MHT has not taken action on the offer of the Confederate Memorial Park to accept the monuments for display. She expressed her view that the loan of the monuments to LAXART for display is inappropriate and inconsistent with the terms of the historic preservation easement held by MHT.

Mr. Klima, speaking on his own behalf, commented that the Baltimore City Confederate monuments continue to languish in storage because MHT is not enforcing its easement. He expressed his view that MHT has deviated from its statutory purpose and its failure to enforce the easement sets a dangerous precedent. He is not in support of the loan of the monuments to LAXART.

Mr. Jim Dunbar, Chair of the Confederate Memorial Park, Inc., located in St. Mary's County, reiterated the organization's offer to accept the Baltimore City Confederate Monuments for display on their property. He read aloud the July 20th letter from Delegates Matt Morgan and Jerry Clark to the MHT Board of Trustees expressing their support for the transfer of the monuments to the Park. He invited Board members to visit the park which receives a high rate of visitation.

C4

COMMITTEE REPORTS

C100

Capital Programs Committee

C101R

Owings Mill/Groff's Mill – Gift Easement

Ms. Casey Squyres, MHT Easement Administrator, reported that the owner of Owings Mill, also known as Groff's Mill or Eureka Mill, has offered to donate an easement on the 9-acre parcel of land to MHT. The property includes: 1.) the Owings Upper Mill, constructed circa 1798, which is likely the oldest and largest mill surviving in Baltimore County; 2.) a 3-story brick residence dating to the late 19th century that was once the home of William D. Groff, Sr.; and 3.) several outbuildings. The property is zoned for commercial development.

The complex is individually listed on the National Register of Historic Places, and MHT is therefore permitted under its gift easement policy to accept the donation of an easement on the complex. It will be necessary for staff to visit and document the site, and conduct further discussions with the property owner, in order to determine the final scope and boundaries of the easement.

Mr. Parker and Mr. Charlton inquired about the intended use of the property. Mr. Ingraham indicated that development of the property for office space is anticipated and that a commercial historic tax credit application has been submitted by the property owner. Mr. Parker inquired if interpretation of the property's history is a requirement of tax credit awards. Mr. Ingraham

responded that this is not a requirement although completed tax credit projects often include interpretive materials (signage, brochures, etc.) as a matter of interest.

The following motion was made by Mr. Parker, seconded by Mr. Spikes, and approved unanimously.

RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees of the Maryland Historical Trust (“MHT”) accepts the donation of a perpetual Deed of Easement encumbering the property known as Owings Upper Mill (Eureka Mill, Groff’s Mill), 10601 Reisterstown Road, Owings Mills, Baltimore County; and

RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees delegates to the Director the authority to make determinations on the scope and boundaries of the Deed of Easement.

C200 Survey, Registration, Community Education & Museums Committee

C201R Maryland History Day Prize Winners

Ms. Hughes stated that the MHT Board makes a donation to the Maryland Humanities Council to sponsor two achievement awards for the annual Maryland History Day competition – one in the junior division (grades 6 through 8) and one in the senior division (grades 9 through 12). Winners receive a cash prize and a plaque with the name of the Maryland Historical Trust, and sponsorship is also acknowledged in the Maryland History Day program, the National History Day program, and in press releases containing the names of Maryland History Day winners. In addition, schools receive information about the Maryland Historical Trust award at the time that History Day projects are solicited for the competition.

Ms. Hughes reported that the 2022 award winners included:

Junior Division Winner in 2022

Makah Tribe’s Fight to Reclaim Their Whaling Tradition

Category: Junior Individual Website

Student: Bianca Crainiceanu

School: Roland Park Elementary/Middle School

Teacher: Allisun Thompson

Senior Division Winners in 2022

Little Crow To Lincoln: The Failure of Debate and Diplomacy To Mend Broken Promises
Between the Sioux and The US Government

Category: Senior Individual Documentary

Student: Liam Grogan

School: Frederick Homeschoolers

Teacher: Sofia Grogan

Ms. Hughes introduced Mr. Liam Grogan who discussed how he selected his History Day project subject and what he learned from the experience. Board members congratulated Mr. Grogan on his award and on his outstanding presentation.

C300 Management & Planning Committee

C301R Election of MHT Board of Trustees Officers

Ms. Sarah Filkins, Chair of the MHT Board Nominating Committee, reported that the Bylaws of the MHT Board require the election of a Chairman, a Vice Chairman and a Treasurer at the first regular meeting of the Trustees after July 1. The term of officers is for two years and officers may not serve more than 3 consecutive terms.

Laura Mears, the current Chair, is completing her first full two-year term as Chair. She is eligible for a second two-year term. Franklin Robinson, the current Vice Chair, is completing his first full two-year term as Vice Chair. He is eligible for a second two-year term. Sam Parker is completing his first two-year term as Treasurer. He is eligible for a second two-year term but does not wish to continue to serve as Treasurer.

Ms. Filkins then presented the following slate of officer candidates for election by the Board:

Chairman: Laura Davis Mears
Vice Chairman: Franklin Robinson, Jr.
Treasurer: J. Rodney Little

The following motion was made by Ms. Filkins, seconded by Ms. Uunila, and approved unanimously.

RESOLVED, that the Maryland Historical Trust Board of Trustees elects the following slate of officers for two-year terms beginning on August 1, 2022:

Chairman: Laura Davis Mears
Vice Chairman: Franklin Robinson, Jr.
Treasurer: J. Rodney Little

C302R Election of MHT Board of Trustees Executive Committee “Elected Trustee”

Ms. Filkins reported that the MHT Board bylaws indicate that the Executive Committee shall consist of the officers, the immediate past Chairman (if still a Trustee) or the current Chairman's designee, and one other Trustee elected by the Trustees at the time established for the election of officers. The terms of the Executive Committee members are to be concurrent with the terms of the officers. Albert L. Feldstein currently serves as the Elected Trustee and is willing to continue to serve in this capacity.

The following motion was made by Ms. Filkins, seconded by Mr. Parker, and approved unanimously with Mr. Feldstein abstaining.

RESOLVED, that the Maryland Historical Trust Board of Trustees elects Mr. Albert L. Feldstein to serve as the Elected Trustee on the Executive Committee.

C303R Election of Area Representatives

Ms. Filkins reported that the MHT Board bylaws provide for the election of persons to serve as Area Representatives to the Trust. The term of an Area Representative is two years, beginning on the first day of the first month following his or her election. Up to ten Area Representatives may serve at one time. Area Representatives are to be chosen so as to afford, on a regular basis, participation in Trust deliberations by persons from areas of the State not represented by Trustees.

The MHT Board Nominating Committee recommends re-election of all existing Area Representatives with the exception of Marty Azola who does not wish to be reappointed.

The following motion was made by Ms. Filkins, seconded by Ms. Uunila, and approved unanimously.

RESOLVED, that the Maryland Historical Trust Board of Trustees elects the following slate of nominees to serve as Area Representatives for two-year terms beginning on August 1, 2022.

Charles A. Stek – Anne Arundel County
Harry T. Spikes, II – Baltimore City
Kirsti Uunila – Calvert County
Dean R. Camlin – Carroll County
Lisa Sasser – Kent County
Sakinah Linder – Harford County
W. Dickerson Charlton – Prince George’s County
Douglass C. Reed – Washington County

C304 Investment Committee Report

Mr. Charlton reported on the most recent meeting of the MHT Board Investment Committee. He indicated that while there has been volatility in the market recently, the Board’s investments are conservative and the account portfolio remains in good shape.

C305 Equity Working Group Report

Mr. Parker, Chair of the Equity Working Group, thanked everyone who had completed the survey designed to collect information on individuals’ perspectives on justice, equity and diversity at MHT. He explained that the survey was only the first step in identifying the point of view of MHT Board and staff members. The next step will be to determine what sort of educational programs might benefit MHT. As MHT begins work on the State Historic Preservation Plan update, this work will be important as we address justice, equity, and diversity issues that are on the minds of our stakeholders.

Nell Ziehl, Chief of the Office of Planning, Education, and Outreach, presented a powerpoint that summarized the results of the survey. Mr. Parker thanked Ms. Ziehl for her work synthesizing all of the qualitative data that had been received through the survey instrument.

C306 Budget & Legislation

Ms. Hughes reported that the Department would soon begin work on the fiscal year 2024 operating and capital budget submission to the Department of Budget and Management (DBM). She noted that Marc Nicole, Deputy Secretary of DBM, Andrew Pierce, Director of the Office of Budget Analysis, and Corinne DeFrancisci, Budget Analyst, recently enjoyed a day long tour of Jefferson Patterson Park and Museum hosted by Acting Director Patricia Samford.

Ms. Hughes reported that the report on Historic African American Cemeteries in Maryland, developed in partnership with the Maryland Commission on African American History and Culture (MCAAHC), Preservation Maryland, the Coalition to Protect Maryland Burial Sites, and the Maryland State Archives, was submitted to the Joint Chairmen of the Budget Committees by the June 30th deadline. The report is available online on the MCAAHC and MHT websites.

C307 Litigation & Legal Issues

Ms. Delony reported that OAG filed a brief in the Court of Appeals for the Ransom case arguing that the Court should deny the petition for a writ of certiorari filed by petitioners seeking review of the Court of Special Appeals' unreported decision.

Announcements

Ms. Hughes reported that the Stagg House is open for tours and that a tour of the nearby Thomas Stone National Historic Site will begin at 1 pm.

Meeting adjourned at 12:00 pm.