

Minutes of the
Fiftieth Meeting of the
Maryland Heritage Areas Authority
January 13, 2011
MD Department of Housing & Community Development
100 Community Place
Crownsville MD 21032

The fiftieth meeting of the Maryland Heritage Areas Authority was held at the MD Department of Housing & Community Development beginning at approximately 9:40 a.m.

Authority Members/Designees Present: Matthew J. Power, Deputy Secretary, Maryland Department of Planning (representing Richard E. Hall, Secretary, MD Department of Planning and Chairperson of the Maryland Heritage Area Authority); William Pencek (representing Department of Business & Economic Development Secretary Christian Johansson); Wayne E. Clark (recommended by President of the Senate); Dr. Marty Baker (representing Department of Transportation Secretary, Beverly K. Swaim-Staley); J. Rodney Little (State Historic Preservation Officer); Donna Ware (recommended by the Speaker of the House); Robert D. Campbell (Governor's Appointee for Historic Preservation Expertise); Ann Fligsten (Speaker of the House representative); David G. Burke (Maryland Greenway Commission representative); John Fieseler (Maryland Tourism Development Board representative); John Wilson (representing Department of Natural Resources Secretary John R. Griffin); Donna Tully Dudley (public member for Heritage Tourism); Marci Taylor-Thoma (Maryland State Department of Education); and Amy Seitz (representing Department of Housing & Community Development Secretary Raymond L. Skinner)

Authority Members/Designees Absent: Andrea C. Harrison (Maryland Association of Counties representative); MD Department of Agriculture Secretary representative - vacant); Robert D. Agee (recommended by President of the Senate)

Staff Present: Richard Hughes, Jennifer Ruffner, Bernadette P. Pruitt; Philip Deters; Elizabeth Hughes; Shannon Marino

Others Present: Carol Benson, (Annapolis, London Town, and South County / Four Rivers Heritage Area); Roz Racanello (Southern Maryland Heritage Area); Amanda Fenstermaker, Liz Shatto, (Heart of the Civil War Heritage Area); Jeffrey Buchheit (Baltimore Heritage Area); Jay Parker (Lower Eastern Shore Heritage Area); Mary Ann Lisanti (Lower Susquehanna Heritage Area); Deborah Divins-Davis (Stories of the Chesapeake Heritage Area); Peggy Erickson (Montgomery County Heritage Area); Renee Bone (Canal Place Heritage Area); Jenny Snyder (Maryland Cultural Data Project); Elizabeth Beckley (Preservation Maryland).

Call to Order

Mr. Power chaired and called the meeting to order at approximately 9:40 a.m. All in attendance introduced themselves.

Mr. Power stated that a lot has gone on since the last meeting on October 14, 2010 and that from then until now it has been a very busy time. Everyone is excited about the governor's win and he is looking forward to continuing to work with everyone that is involved with the MHAA. He shared that this is one of the most rewarding parts of his job, to witness all the great things that are happening, and to be working with such inspiring people.

MDP Update – (Matt Power)

There are two big efforts underway right now – *Plan Maryland* and *Preserve Maryland*.

Over 125 people attended the *Preserve Maryland* summit that was held at the Department of Housing and Community Development. Ms. Hughes indicated that the focus was centered around linking the past to the future, how much will Maryland's population will grow in the future, what we will preserve and how we will remember the past.

Since the last meeting, the *Plan Maryland* efforts have focused on developing a state wide growth plan. A sustainability summit was held the previous week on the Eastern Shore at Chesapeake College with over 750 people in attendance. The basis of the conference centered around the Department of Natural Resources' *Greenprint*, focusing on prioritizing and preserving the state's ecological resources, the Department of Agriculture's *Agprint*, focusing on best opportunity to preserve state farmland and the Maryland Department of Planning's *Growthprint*, focusing on priority funding areas and figuring out the most critical places to reinvest and redevelop.

A good mix of academics, local and state government, private sector, historic preservationists, planners and planning directors attended. There was also strong attendance from the general public. Mr. Power thinks that a lot will be coming out of the state wide plan and he is looking forward to it. Governor O'Malley was there for about three hours talking, interacting and answering questions from the general public with regards to ideas about moving forward with Smart Growth and the incorporation of similar efforts.

Mr. Power announced that the 2011 Preservation Maryland Conference will be held in Annapolis in the Spring. He thanked everyone for their partnership and help in supporting the conference. He encouraged everyone to save the date to attend the conference.

Introductions and Recognition of New Members & Directors

Mr. Power invited new members Amy Seitz, Donna Tully Dudley, John Fieseler and new Stories of the Chesapeake Heritage Area director Deborah Divins-Davis to share something about their backgrounds:

Ms. Amy Seitz replaces Kurt Sommer and will represent Secretary Raymond L. Skinner, MD Department of Housing & Community Development. She knows a number of MHAA members because she worked for Preservation Maryland and the Baltimore Main Street Program. She started with DHCD as Director in the Office of Marketing. She is passionate about economic development in local governments and community vitalization. As Community Access and Partnership Director she works with lots of local governments, particularly with Main Street communities, and provides technical support to other local governments. Additionally, she is working with the Community Tax Credit program and is pleased this year to see a number of museums, heritage and cultural institutions, and applicants applying to stabilize historic structures. There is as lot of great overlap with what she is doing in her department.

Ms. Donna Dudley announced that she was happy to be in attendance and joining the MHAA. She was the former executive director for the Four Rivers Heritage area for six years and the DMO for Charles County for the last two years and four months.

Mr. John Fieseler is Executive Director for the Tourism Council of Frederick County and represents the Maryland Tourism Development Board. He is happy that 2011 has arrived because they have been talking and thinking about the opening of the new Frederick County Visitor's Center for a long time. He shared that Liz Shatto has worked very hard coordinating the exhibit opening. He also noted that April marks the 150th anniversary of Civil War Sesquicentennial, and Frederick will have a number of events, and will be coordinating with Baltimore as well. In April will they will commemorate Frederick's brief role as the state capital, when the General Assembly convened in Frederick to discuss the matter of secession.

Ms. Deborah Divins-Davis previously worked with the Stories of the Chesapeake about ten years ago and was involved in the development of its management plan. Since her return it's been a major learning curve with regards to becoming executive director.

Later in the meeting, new member Ms. Marci Taylor-Thoma was introduced by the Chair. She briefly talked about herself and mentioned that she's been employed with the MD State Department of Education as a Social Studies Coordinator for many years.

Approval of Minutes for October 14, 2010

Ms. Fligsten offered the following motion:

RESOLVED, that the Authority approves the October 14, 2010 minutes with the correction of David G. Burke's name.

The motion was seconded by Ms. Ware and approved unanimously.

Management Report

Re-appointment of MHAA Vice Chairman

The MHAA bylaws require that the vice-chair of the Authority be re-elected. Mr. Power called for a motion to re-appoint Mr. Bill Pencek as the Vice Chair of the MHAA for the next year. Ms. Seitz offered the following motion:

RESOLVED, that the Mr. William Pencek is nominated to serve as the Vice Chair of the Maryland Heritage Areas Authority.

The chairman called for discussion, and with no discussion to follow, the motion was seconded by Mr. Campbell and approved unanimously.

Budget Report – Matt Power

The 2011 budget is not public yet. Mr. Power indicated that MDP is lucky to be where they are and ideally will not be laying off employees. They are currently working through the Voluntary Separation Program that was offered to State Employee that could have an impact on MDP.

It would be fair to say that no program will be exempt from cuts in the upcoming budget. MHAA is well positioned and well supported and any incurred cuts will be fair and not damaging enough to disrupt the success of the program. Mr. Power asked everyone to continue their great lobbying efforts as they have in the past. MHAA has been incredibly successful in preserving funding largely due to the efforts of the executive directors and management entities.

Mr. Pencek mentioned that there was a War of 1812 meeting in December that provided the opportunity to focus attention on the efforts and successes of the Heritage Areas Program. Mike Miller and heritage area directors were in attendance at that meeting.

Status of Statewide Heritage Area recognition and certification efforts: Garrett County Management Plan – Update – Richard Hughes

Mr. Hughes reported that the Garrett County certification efforts continue to move forward. There is a draft management plan and a number of TAC members have agreed to review it. The draft is over 800 pages and it is taking longer than anticipated to review it. Comments were to be consolidated and returned to them within a month, however the date was extended to mid-February. He indicated that all eight municipalities are included in the comprehensive plan and have completed a resolution to amend their comprehensive plans. The Planning Commission has not yet approved the amendment, and the County is holding off on this for the moment, as changes may be required and the resolution would need to be amended.

The boundaries of the heritage area are, like Lower Eastern Shore and Southern Maryland, a municipalities and corridors model, with connecting scenic byways, and including state parks,

lakes and forests. The reviewers will be looking at the boundaries to ensure that everything that can benefit from the program is within the boundaries.

The target date to visit Garrett County will in the Spring, hopefully before the next TAC meeting. Realistically, the Authority will not be able to act on this until the July meeting. The MHAA will also have to hold a public hearing in Garrett County and Mr. Hughes is still looking for MHAA volunteers to participate in May 2011.

Maryland Heritage Areas Authority Financing Fund Report – Richard Hughes

Mr. Hughes reported that as of November 30, 2011, the MHAA financing fund available balance was \$190,145.81. He indicated that some possible distribution of emergency funds will be discussed later in the meeting.

MHAA Strategic Plan Implementation Report - Jennifer Ruffner

Mr. Power asked Ms. Ruffner for her report and thanked staff for their continued efforts and commitment in moving forward with the strategic plan.

Ms. Ruffner went over some of the items on which work has been moving forward.

Item 3.1 - Appendices for archeology and natural resource projects were created and included with the FY 2012 grant applications. Mr. Clarke asked how the word was being spread to the archeology and natural resource communities about this new emphasis on these types of projects, and there was discussion of possible venues for publishing/sharing this information.

Item 4.3.4 - Staff have been working with Marci Ross on developing protocol for DMO Marking Plan review.

Item 5.2.1 & .2 – Staff have reviewed the content and best practices for a clearing house website, and determined that much of the content already exists on the current MHT website. They will explore the possibility of creating a more distinct feel to the MHAA portion of the website (similar to the Preserve Maryland site).

Item 6.5 – Staff have been discussing the Maryland Cultural Data Project and its efficacy with the Coalition members.

Ms. Ruffner also shared the report of the Management Entities progress on the strategic plan items, noting that many have begun work on their five year management plans, and that one quarterly report had been received after she printed out the summary.

Mr. Power shared another quick update, that the new director of Jefferson Patterson Park and Museum would be starting on January 26, 2011. His name is Mark Thompson and he was the Director of the Maritime Museum in Portland, Maine.

FY 2012 Grant Round - Richard Hughes

Mr. Hughes stated that the FY 2012 grant applications are now available online. There were some significant changes, but none that were not discussed. The FY 2012 grants are due to MHAA on April 1, 2011.

Report on Grants Lifecycle Management Software - Jennifer Ruffner

Ms. Ruffner reported that in order to more effectively manage the grants program, staff have been exploring the purchase of a commercial off-the-shelf software system for grants lifecycle management. The current, primarily manual system of grants management, while functional, is time consuming, and involves a great deal of rekeying of data, which can introduce errors into the system. Grants lifecycle management software would streamline the system, providing better service to constituents, ensure we are following industry best practices and standards, would include an online application process, and have integrated audit features. Implementation of a software system would provide a more holistic view of grants across programs, and provide a better means of managing relationships with grantees, not just projects. It would also enable us to track organizational performance more effectively.

Mr. Wilson shared that Wildlife and Fisheries have online applications for permits. Ms. Seitz noted that DHCD is also interested in a similar system, and will be eager to learn what the research identifies. Mr. Power noted that one of the challenges is finding a system that can work with the State's financial tracking system, which is antiquated.

Request by Anacostia Trails Heritage Area, Inc. (ATHA, Inc.) to Amend Oct. 14, 2010 MHAA Resolution Approving Change of Management Entity

ATHA, Inc. has requested that MHAA amend its October 14, 2010 resolution approving a change to the designated Certified Heritage Area management entity from the Redevelopment Authority of Prince George's County (RA) to ATHA, Inc. The requested amendment would allow for the assignment to ATHA, Inc. of existing contracts between the RA and MHAA. This will allow RA to transfer MHAA grant funds it currently holds directly to ATHA, Inc.

The following motion was made by Mr. Burke:

RESOLVED, that the Maryland Heritage Areas Authority (the Authority) approves the request by the Anacostia Trails Heritage Area, Inc. (ATHA) to amend the Authority's October 14, 2010 resolution by adding the additional language presented below (new language in Bold):

RESOLVED, that the Maryland Heritage Areas Authority approves the request by the Anacostia Trails Heritage Area, Inc., the Redevelopment Authority of Prince George's County, and the County Council of Prince George's County sitting as the District Council, to amend the Anacostia Trails Heritage Area Management Plan to change the designated Certified Heritage Area management entity from the Redevelopment Authority of Prince George's County to the non-profit organization Anacostia Trails Heritage Area, Inc.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Authority approves assignment of all of the Redevelopment Authority of Prince George's County 's outstanding rights and responsibilities under any open contracts between the Authority and the Redevelopment Authority of Prince George's County to ATHA, on condition that ATHA consent.

It was seconded by Dr. Baker and approved unanimously.

Amendments to MHAA July 8, 2010 Resolution Approving FY 2011 Maryland Heritage Areas Authority Grant Requests

Mr. Hughes requested approval of the following amendments to the resolution approving the FY-2011 grants. One grant, for the Maryland Cultural Data project, was inadvertently left off the grant chart that was approved. In addition, staff is requesting that routine changes to the scope of work and budget of grants can be approved by staff rather than requiring a full vote from the Authority, as long as they do not significantly alter the programs, work, activities or products of the originally approved project.

The following motion was made by Mr. Clark:

RESOLVED, that the Maryland Heritage Areas Authority approves an amendment to its October 14, 2010 resolution approving the FY 2011 Maryland Heritage Areas Authority Grant Requests as indicated below (new language in Bold):

RESOLVED, that the Authority approves a series of grants for the management operations of Certified Heritage Areas, and for projects and activities located within, the Anacostia Trails Heritage Area, the Annapolis, London Town and South County Heritage Area, Canal Place Heritage Area, Baltimore Heritage Area, Heart of Chesapeake Country Heritage Area, Heart of the Civil War Heritage Area, Lower Eastern Shore Heritage Area, Lower Susquehanna Heritage Greenway Heritage Area, Montgomery County Heritage Area, Southern Maryland Heritage Area, and Stories of the Chesapeake Heritage Area, , under the Maryland Heritage Areas Authority Grant Program as detailed and in accordance with the amounts and terms set forth in the chart titled "Maryland Heritage Areas Authority Grant Requests: FY 2011," **and \$20,000 to the Pew Charitable Trusts for the Maryland Cultural Data Project.**

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this approval is contingent upon sufficient funding being made available in the Maryland Heritage Areas Authority Financing Fund.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the staff to the Maryland Heritage Areas Authority is authorized to prepare any documents necessary or useful in order to carry out the Grants in conformance with the terms set forth in the chart titled "Maryland Heritage Areas Authority Grant Requests: Fiscal Year 2011." Staff is also authorized to make adjustments to the **scope of work and budget, including the specific allocation of Authority grant funds and the amount of matching funds that must be provided by the grantee, subject to requirements of law, and provided that these adjustments do not significantly alter the programs, work, activities or products of the grant project as originally approved by the Authority.**

It was seconded by Mr. Campbell and approved unanimously

Maryland Coalition of Heritage Areas Report – Roz Racanello

Ms. Racanello reported that the heritage areas are working on sending letters to the legislators. The discussion at the last Coalition meeting focused on the Maryland Cultural Data Project, with many noting that it was difficult to get useful information from the system, but that they were going to try to get information by county to see if that would be of use.

She also shared that Cory Kegerise made a presentation to the Coalition on the Preserve Maryland effort.

Heritage Area Directors Reports

Southern Maryland Heritage Area:

Ms. Roz Racanello announced that all their commissioners are new except for one across the three counties. She finds that it is a real challenge to establish relationships / connect with political newcomers. A copy of the SMHA annual report was distributed.

A new event, “Share Your History Day: Religious Life in Southern Maryland” will be held to offer insight into religious life in Maryland, sponsored by the College of Southern Maryland.

Historic St. Mary’s City will be opening a new traveling exhibit “Between the Fences” that will be opening this week conjunction with the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday.

They are still working on their new website. They are also looking ahead to a visit from the Mid Atlantic Tourism and Public Relations Alliance (MATPR) and will be kicking off an event in Summer 2011 in Solomons.

Montgomery County Heritage Area:

Ms. Peggy Erickson reported that they have completed their first project reflecting on the Civil War, a 32 page program booklet. It was released and they received 100 phone calls on the first day for copies. The video is also finished and the person who did the Ken Burns Civil War documentary soundtrack is working on their soundtrack. The video is scheduled to premier March 9, 2011.

Ms. Erickson is working with the County Executive’s office with regards to the future study of sustainable agriculture in Montgomery County.

Mini grants are coming in and more applications have been received than anticipated. Rockville is still interested in becoming part of the heritage area and she will meet with them next week. They are strengthening their partnerships with the National Park Service and have

talked with Kevin Grant of Canal Towns to create / work on signage throughout the Poolesville area of the canal to draw tourist into the community to significant Civil War locations.

A trial smart phone application is now available. They will be scaling back on printed materials for Heritage Days and are directing people to the website.

They have two new council members, yet the makeup of the council have not changed. The council awarded mini grants and a couple of no match grants were awarded. The Revels received a MHAA grant last year and are partnering with small groups for the performances. It is rumored that the County Executive Isaiah Leggett will hold non profits harmless in the next grant round. She is scheduled to meet with him on January 18th and in spite of the difficult economic times, Heritage Montgomery is still thriving with lots of new products.

Heart of the Civil War Heritage Area:

Ms. Elizabeth Scott Shatto reported that they have had significant turnover within in HCWHA, however, they are fortunate to have never depended on appropriations from the county government to meet their match for management of the heritage area. They do have a big job in educating and building those new relationships.

Mini grants are in review and they expect to make decisions by the end of January and more demands are on that grant pool at the mini grant level. They have between \$10,000 - \$20,000 that can be distributed. She is expecting more project grants than ever before as well.

In addition to the MHAA workshops given by Jen Ruffner she has held workshops in the three counties with 25 people attending. Others who could not attend are working on their grant applications and intent to apply forms are still coming in. They are encouraging those interested in archeology and natural resources to apply for grants. Promotional information went out to local DNR offices and archeological groups via media releases. She finds that there is disconnect and they aren't sure that they are able to apply for or are eligible for MHAA grants.

The new Frederick Visitor Center is complete, and the next MHAA meeting will be held there in April. There will be lots of entertainment and the Authority will get to see the MHAA funded exhibit, the visitor orientation film and the rehabilitated building.

The Sesquicentennial commemorations will kick off in April with Bell and History Days on April 2 and 3. On April 3 there will be a Hand Bell Festival in Emmitsburg where new arrangements of the Battle Hymn of the Republic and Maryland, My Maryland will be performed.

At the end of April they will be marking the Burning Question of Secession in Frederick, commemorating when the Maryland Legislation met there in 1861. There will be a weekend of activities in Frederick.

They have opened the Newcomer House as the heritage area Visitor Center at Antietam Battlefield. It is run by Washington County Conventional Visitors Bureau. Between September

and December 2010, they had 1,200 visitors. They are working on Phase 2 of the interpretation. The site will reopen in April.

The keynote program for the Master Docent Series this year will be held on February 18, 2011, and is a product of Historic Annapolis', "Project Runaway", funded by MHAA. The performance features ten characters based on runaway ads from the 18th and 19th century.

The Heart of the Civil War Heritage Area's Annual Report *The Bugle Call* went out in the mail since the last MHAA meeting and is available on line at their website www.heartofthecivilwar.org.

Heart of the Chesapeake Country Heritage Area:

Ms. Amanda Fenstermaker reported that there is a lot to be concerned about with regards to the budget. There is a lot of advocating for the heritage and tourism budgets. A Taste of Maryland is coming up January 17, sponsored by the MD Tourism council and Tourism Day on January 28, 2011 will be an opportunity to meet with legislators.

Mr. Pencek commended the DMOs on the Maryland Life Magazine supplement discussing why tourism is good for Maryland.

One Dorchester county council member retired and that person's replacement is very interested in heritage tourism. They are waiting to see the how the governor's budget may impact them. A marketing report went out today and a draft annual report will be distributed in February. Hopefully, those positive messages will be of benefit to the heritage area. They are encouraging applicants for the MHAA and National Scenic Byways grants, and have good solid applications coming forward. The HCCHA entered into a great partnership with the University of Maryland Eastern Shore (UMES) Tourism and Hospitality Program to do tour guide training for the Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad Byway. The training will start early April and run through May 2011. They conducted interviews with companies to build a community and consumer website for the Tubman Byway. Twenty two companies responded with proposals and seven were interviewed. A selection has not been made, however, they are really excited about doing some interactive things.

Stories of the Chesapeake Heritage Area:

Ms. Deborah Divins-Davis reported that they have had a fair amount of turnover. They have been dependent on local governments to fund their match. She has been working on the infrastructure with things such as selecting a new website firm and working with the local legislature. She is planning fund raising events, preparing appeal letters, identifying individual donors, creating / establishing regular communications with partners and stakeholders via e-mail at minimum on a quarterly basis. They have revised their FY-2011 management grant and are preparing the FY-12 application. SCHA is getting calls from people who have never applied for MHAA grants due to the dry grant pool. Mr. Power welcomed Ms. Divins-Davis and encouraged her to work with Coalition mentors.

Lower Eastern Shore Heritage Area:

Mr. Jay Parker reported that they lost almost all of their county funding, and that they have challenges with their relationship with the DMO. They held a Watermen event, trying to figure out ways to support and help them, because there is a real potential for the end of the waterman culture within our lifetime.

They are working on the Blue Crab Scenic Byway, which was turned down because it didn't connect with other byways, so now they are looking at a Cape to Cape approach rather than the coastal heritage.

They have installed interactive kiosks with touch screens and printers.

They still have a need for a detailed map of the heritage area, and are working with staff to generate that.

Four Rivers Heritage Area:

Dr. Carol Benson reported that there was some turn over on the Anne Arundel County Council. Two county council members were re-elected. They relate very well to the Four Rivers Heritage Area and are very supportive. The City of Annapolis hired a new chief of historic preservation, Lisa Craig. She is a fantastic professional with an extensive historic preservation background and previously worked with the National Trust. She hit the ground running with the effort of closing an outstanding MHAA grant for the Maynard Burgess House. She's taken a seat on the local planning committee for the preservation conference in Annapolis. Ms. Benson has already met with Ms. Craig who will be joining the Four Rivers Heritage Areas Council. Ms. Benson is very happy to be working with her. She announced and invited all to attend the Annual Preservation Conference which will be held in Annapolis on May 19-20, 2011 in Annapolis.

They had a meeting with guest speaker Kate Marks, the Annapolis History Consortium and invited guests to plan War of 1812 activities. Belvoir and Tracey's Landing were identified as two important 1812 sites in Annapolis.

Four Rivers had a success mini grant round and nine mini grants were awarded.

A partnership continues with two local Anne Arundel County Public elementary schools and Historic Londontown and Gardens, building on the success of last year's positive program. Banneker Douglass Museum will partner with a local high school and its students to produce oral histories focusing on Carr's Beach.

They are hosting grant and training workshops with Historic Londontown and Gardens focusing on the decorative arts for volunteers. She was inspired by the October trails summit and has a meeting planned to establish county water trails.

Four Rivers is planning for its fourth Maryland Day Celebration that will be held over the entire week-end of March 24-27 2011.

A new unanticipated partnership has been established with Southern High School. They wanted to connect with heritage organizations to reach into the community through family knowledge and histories.

They are in the process of developing a five year plan and have a consultant that did an excellent study looking at new TIZs in Galesville and Edgewater. Several of their TIZ's are scheduled to expire in October 2011.

Baltimore National Heritage Area:

Mr. Jeffrey Buchheit announced the intent to apply for MHAA grants is due January 28th and the final application deadline is March 4, 2011. On January 12, 2011, they turned in four intent to apply submissions for the Charles Street Scenic Byways grants and partnered with another organization on a fifth application.

The BNHA received an emergency MHAA grant for Civil War activities in Baltimore highlighting all of Maryland's heritage areas. They partnered with the National Park Service on February 23, 2011 to host Lincoln's Journey through Baltimore. On April 15-17, 2011 a series of week-end activities which will include a Maryland's Civil War Trail's Expo at the Inner Harbor and a Grand Procession, activities at Fort McHenry and new exhibits at the B&O Museum and the Maryland Historical Society. Everyone was invited.

Also Civil War related, the BNHA is in final negotiations with Eastern National Bookstore to get them into President Street Station, hopefully, by the February 23rd event.

The 1812 traveling exhibit will be completed in two months and ready for local and regional touring.

A new 25 member advisory committee was appointed by the mayor and had their first meeting. The executive committee is moving cautiously forward to form a new 501(c)3 and applaud committee about being thoughtful about another fund raising entity.

The BNHA is working, as required by the National Parks Service, to complete its comprehensive management plan before they can receive any federal funding. It will include the MHAA five year plan and Byways CMP.

Two new trails with signage should be in place by the summer season and three new mapping guides and the GPS-based tour available at the Inner Harbor will be complete.

With regards to city council turnover, it is more stressful for the individual sites who are now meeting with new elected officials. The BNHA should be continually supported pending being kept in good graces with the Mayor of Baltimore.

The new Fort McHenry Visitor Center will open March 3, 2011 and invites are forthcoming.

Canal Place Heritage Area:

Ms. Renee Bone reported that Allegany and Garrett counties both have all new county council members who are a very different group of commissioners. Meetings are scheduled with them to educate them about Canal Place over the next several months. State elected officials remain the same. Cumberland elected a new mayor and city council members. They are working on establishing a relationship with the District One delegation that now shares space with them in the train station. Canal Place will not request or receive general fund appropriations in FY-2012 so they are emphasizing that to DBM, stressing the importance of MHAA. They are very busy updating their management plan /comprehensive project in cooperation with the city of Cumberland. As part of the plan the city will update their downtown design and development plan. They are partnering with the National Parks Service to conduct environmental analysis components within the plan itself to look at the boatyard idea and implications for the re-watering of the canal related to a tunnel now rather than a bridge. National Park Service is also looking at interpretive analysis for the boatyard project and living history associated with that as well.

Canal Place is looking at expanding its boundaries, re-defining the theme for Canal Place Heritage Area and a possible name change to clear up the confusion between the Canal Place Development Preservation Authority (the management entity) and the Canal Place Heritage Area.

A 29 page RFP was created that generated 35 requests for packets to be sent out to consultants. A pre-bid meeting was held on January 11, 2011. Twenty plus bidders were in attendance and an additional 25 via website. At the end of the month a twelve member steering committee will review incoming proposals, conduct interviews with the top candidates, and offer recommendations to Canal Place Authority, Mayor and Council. An economic development component has been added as related to the development/revitalization of TIZs focusing on Cumberland and Frostburg. MHAA Strategic Plan requirements will be incorporated as well. The project will start in March/April and hopefully will be completed within 18 month.

They continue to work on Cumberland's Bicentennial celebration of the National Road. Mr. Terry Maxell conducted a scenic byways grants workshop. Allegany and Garrett counties have three byways and only one, the National Road Byway has a corridor management plan. There is some interest in putting forth proposals to prepare the corridor management plan for the other two and bring those entities together focusing on the Frostburg depot and the trail there. They will apply and approach Community Legacy for matching funds. Conversations continue with regards to the development of a restaurant in the Footer Dye Works building and the hotel.

Lower Susquehanna Heritage Greenway:

Ms. Mary Ann Lisanti reported that over the past couple of months they have been focusing on the planning aspect of the heritage area. The management plan and concept is almost ten years old. They are taking a strategic look at accomplishments and where they are going from this point forward. With a very aggressive fifteen million capital program within their heritage area, a tremendous amount been accomplished, but some projects are not applicable to the area

any more and there are new opportunities. They are in the middle of their Scenic Byways Corridor management plan which is a key next piece. They are finding through the Byways Plan that LSHG is not a place in time but have so many (snapshots) historical segments that it is very challenging to implement an accurate interpretation plan particularly in the area of tourism.

The City of Havre de Grace has the greatest concentration of heritage resources and about seven years ago LSHG worked with them, with funding provided by MHAA, to write a Havre de Grace heritage area quarter management plan. Over the years, a lot of people have been in and out of the plan, and a lot of transition has taken place in the city. Over the past year LSHG have been rewriting that plan with help from museums and heritage areas. It will be incorporated into the LSHG Management Plan and the new confines of the MHAA strategic plans and the presentation will be made to the Mayor and City Council in February. As a result of all of these planning efforts LSHG is going through a major board of directors re-organization. There was no turnover in Harford County and almost complete turnover in Cecil County. She is familiar with the new faces and they are familiar with the heritage areas program.

As an elected official, she suggested that heritage area directors tailor their presentations and orientations to the particular elected official, know their interest, and find your common ground in this positive program.

LSGH is strengthening partnership with the National Park Service working on major national initiatives, such as Captain John Smith, Star Spangled Banner, existing Gateways Programs, Treasured Landscapes, new EPA requirements, Chesapeake Bay clean up etc.

LSHG received technical assistance from the NPS to analyze all built trail systems, prioritize projects, identifying potential and shortcomings.

They continue to rethink and work with technology professionals to resolve and improve communication issues.

LSGH is working on major land acquisitions in Cecil County that require public and private partnerships. The three major projects are Perryville Pier at Rodgers Tavern, scheduled to open in spring, Port Deposit's Veterans' Park and the Gateways Project in Havre de Grace.

Emergency Grant Requests – Richard Hughes

Emergency grant request – \$50,000 Capital Grant for acquisition and stabilization of the mid-18th century Miller's House at Wye Mills, Talbot County (Stories of the Chesapeake Heritage Area).

Mr. Hughes offered some background on the project followed by additional information from Ms. Elizabeth Beckley. This was a project that MHAA gave previous conditional approval to, with the assumption that a foundation endowment would be provided. That has not been the case, so it is necessary to come back for a new approval from MHAA.

Ms. Beckley shared that the endowment is not a firm commitment. The house is listed on the National Register. They are asking for a grant for \$50,000, and have identified sources for matching funds. The MHAA funds will be used for acquisition of the house, and the match will be used to stabilize the structure.

Ms. Fligsten asked what the policy on property acquisition was, and Mr. Hughes said that it is eligible, it has been done before, and is in fact a significant component of the grant program, even if it is not done frequently.

The tax assessment of the property is over \$100,000, and it has been on the market for a long time. Ms. Beckley reported that the owner is interested in a bargain sale – he wants to see the house preserved. He has agreed to terms of \$50,000 for the sale, with the rest of the value a donation to the Friends of Wye Mill. Ms. Beckley said that they are in the process of getting the required valuations, but estimates that it is worth \$149,000.

The site is 1.79 acres, backs onto Wye Oak State Park, and is close to the Mill. It is zoned for mixed use, so lots of things can happen there without special approval.

Mr. Deters asked about the heritage tourism aspect of the project. Ms. Beckley said that the site helps to expand on the story of Wye Mills.

Ms. Fligsten noted that she hoped the Friends would look to uses other than a museum for the site. She also asked if Stories of the Chesapeake Heritage Area has endorsed the project.

Ms. Beckley said that no one envisioned this as a period house – it has no systems in the house currently. Ms. Fligsten expressed concern that it is challenging to keep small sites such as this up and running, and a concern about acquiring more.

The group discussed the specifics of the resolution, and the need to make it clear that MHAA funds will be used for acquisition, not stabilization. Mr. Clarke asked that we include a cut-off date, not to exceed two years, for the project. Ms. Beckley reiterated that the stabilization work needs to happen as soon as possible, as the building is in danger.

Returning to the subject of Stories of the Chesapeake Heritage Area Support, Ms. Beckley said that Ms. Elizabeth Watson had written a letter of support. Ms. Davis said that the current board was not familiar with the project and had not been consulted.

Mr. Deters asked what Preservation Maryland would do to help the Friends of Wye Mill moving forward. Ms. Beckley indicated that they would do anything required to help them and partner with them on the project.

After further discussion, five conditions were added to the resolution.

Mr. Clarke offered the following motion:

RESOLVED, that the Maryland Heritage Areas Authority (the Authority) approves a Fiscal Year 2011 emergency grant from the Maryland Heritage Areas Authority Financing Fund in an amount not to exceed \$50,000 to the Friends of Wye Mill, Inc. (the Grantee) for acquisition of the Miller's House and associated 1.79 acres, more or less, located in Wye Mills, Maryland.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Authority has determined in accordance with its July 3, 2003 Policy on Emergency Grants that this grant will help meet unanticipated needs that arose because of an unforeseen situation that necessitates an immediate need for funding assistance, and the application demonstrates the need for funding assistance was unanticipated at the time of the regular Authority grant round.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Authority has determined in accordance with its policy adopted November 2, 2006 entitled "Maryland Heritage Areas Authority Policy for the Award of Capital Grants to Projects Located Outside of a Target Investment Zone, or After the Expiration of the 10-Year Period Following the First Award of a Capital Grant Within a Target Investment Zone," that the acquisition of the Miller's House property will have an exceptionally significant heritage tourism development impact within the Certified Heritage Area, and that the project meets standards outlined in the management plan for proposed compatible heritage tourism-related uses, physical improvements, and minimum economic benefits.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this approval is contingent on the Grantee fulfilling the following conditions:

- 1. Grantee shall obtain two appraisals of the house and property prior to disbursement of grant funds, and the maximum Authority grant amount shall not exceed 50% of the average of the two appraisals of the subject property or \$50,000, whichever is less;**
- 2. Grantee must provide documentation of required dollar-for-dollar matching funds, of which no less than 75% must be cash match, prior to disbursement of grant funds;**
- 3. Grantee shall convey a historic preservation easement to the Maryland Historical Trust, or another organization approved by the Authority, within one year of acquisition of the property;**
- 4. Grantee will initiate stabilization of the building within 30 days of acquiring the property, however no stabilization work may be initiated prior to receiving preliminary approval of the proposed work from the Maryland Historical Trust;**
- 5. Grantee will complete a rehabilitation/restoration plan for the Miller's House within 24 months of acquiring the property.**

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Chair of the Authority, or the Chair's designee, may approve requests by the Grantee to extend the time to meet conditions specified in this resolution if the Chair, or the Chair's designee after consultation with the Chair, determines that the original deadlines cannot be met due to circumstances beyond the Grantee's control.

It was seconded by Ms. Fligsten and approved unanimously.

Presentation and Discussion on the Maryland Cultural Data Project (MCDP)

Ms. Jenny L. Snyder, Associate, Cultural Data Project/The Pew Charitable Trusts was introduced by Mr. Power to provide a presentation and discussion regarding the MD Cultural Data Project.

Ms. Snyder indicated that she was happy to be in attendance and encouraged questions from the board at any time. She gave an overview of the project. She reflected on statistics, helpdesk assistance, goals, states that have joined the project, reviewed numerous reports and charts, and the annual report.

There were many comments from the board, staff and heritage area directors on behalf of themselves and organizations within their heritage areas.

Mr. Power inquired if there was value in collecting the information from heritage areas, grantees and looking for ways in which we can independently extract the data without having to go through her/the organization. Ms. Snyder indicated that a list of organizations would be needed to create the report.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at approximately 12:45 p.m.