

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
BOARD OF TRUSTEES' MEETING
Thursday, March 18, 2025 at 10:00 AM

Pursuant to notice, the regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Maryland Historical Trust was held as an in person meeting with certain members of the Board attending virtually.

Trustees present: Laura Mears, Jeffrey Buchheit, Albert L. Feldstein, Darius Johnson, Franklin A. Robinson, Jr., LaShay Harvey, and Rebecca L. Flora.

Area Representatives present: Dean Camlin, Dickerson Charlton, Lisa Sasser, Tom Vitanza, Charlie Stek, and Kirsti Uunila.

Office of the Attorney General: Adam Snyder, Rieyn DeLony

MHT Staff: Elizabeth Hughes, Anne Raines, Kathy Monday, Marcia Miller, Heather Barrett, Jessica French, Rod Cofield, Brenna Spray, Dana Halpert, Sierra Bieghy, Allison Luthern, Jordan Cline, William Kiskowski, and Nell Ziehl.

AGENDA

S1 CALL TO ORDER

Chair Laura Mears called the meeting to order at 10:03 AM. A quorum of Board members was not present so no action could be taken.

Chair Mears reported that Ms. Sarah Filkins has decided to resign from the Board effective immediately. The Board expressed appreciation for Ms. Filkins service on the Board which began in 2015. Ms. Mears noted that, with Ms. Filkins departure from the Board, a new chair of the MHT Board Nominating Committee will be needed.

Chair Mears congratulated Anne Raines on her election as President of the National Conference of State Historic Preservation Officers.

S2 APPROVAL OF MINUTES

No corrections were offered to the January 23rd meeting minutes.

S3 PUBLIC COMMENT

No members of the public were present to provide comment.

S4 COMMITTEE REPORTS

S100 Capital Programs Committee

S201R 2025 Maryland Preservation Awards

Ms. Spray reported that the Survey, Registration, Community Education, and Museums Committee met in-person at MHT's offices on February 25, 2025, to review 34 nominations received for the 2025 Maryland Preservation Awards. Eight members participated including four in-person and one over the phone, with the remaining three members giving their recommendations electronically. Based on the strength of the nominations and the category criteria, the Committee selected 10 nominations for recommendation to the Board. Please note that the Committee suggested changing the categories for two nominations based on the award criteria: 1.) Evergreen Heritage Center's Appalachian Time Travel; and, 2.) M-NCPPC Montgomery Parks, Montgomery County TEBS, UMD Historic Preservation Department for the Oakley Cabin AR Experience.

Ms. Spray then provided an overview of the award recommendations which include:

LEADERSHIP AND SERVICE*Outstanding Individual Leadership at the Local Level*

- Ruth Davis-Rogers (Allegany County)

EDUCATION AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT*Excellence in Public Programming & Exhibits*

- Beach to Bay Heritage Area for the African American Heritage Project (Wicomico County)

Excellence in Media & Research

- "Recovering Identity: Northern Frederick County Cultural Resource Survey" (Frederick County)

Excellence in Community Impact

- Evergreen Heritage Center for the Appalachian Time Travel Program (Allegany County)

Excellence in Preservation Partnerships

- M-NCPPC Montgomery Parks, Montgomery County TEBS, UMD Historic Preservation Department for the Oakley Cabin AR Experience (Montgomery County)

STEWARDSHIP*Outstanding Stewardship of Cultural Sites*

- The William P. and Marjorie Doepkens Family (Anne Arundel County)

Outstanding Stewardship by a Government Agency

- U.S. Department of Transportation Maritime Administration for the N.S. Savannah (Baltimore City)

PROJECT EXCELLENCE*Excellence in Rehabilitation*

- The Claggett Center (Frederick County)

Excellence in Restoration

- Flower Theater (Montgomery County)

Excellence in Sustainable Design

- Baltimore City Public Schools and Crabtree, Rohrbaugh Associate for Montebello ES/MS (Baltimore City)

S202 JPPM Update

Rod Cofield, Director of Jefferson Patterson Park and Museum, provided an overview of completed and ongoing activities at JPPM.

He noted that the Patterson House ribbon cutting event, to which Board members are invited, will take place on May 7th. The Maryland Archaeological Conservation lab construction is still underway and the lab is expected to re-open in April of 2026.

S203 Architectural Research and National Register Overview

Anne Raines indicated that at future Board meetings, as time allows, staff will provide an overview of various MHT programs to ensure that Board members have a complete understanding of the wide variety of work conducted by the agency. She then provided an overview of the role of the Maryland Historical Trust, which serves as Maryland's State Historic Preservation Office, in the context of the federal historic preservation program. The Board thanked Ms. Raines for providing this information and asked for a one-page summary as a resource for Board members.

Heather Barrett then provided an overview of MHT's architectural research and National Register activities which are undertaken by staff in the Office of Research, Survey, and Registration.

S300 Management & Planning Committee

S301 Interim Actions of the Executive Committee

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
VIRTUAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
February 7, 2025 at 9:00 AM

A virtual meeting of the Executive Committee of the Board of Trustees of the Maryland Historical Trust was held on February 7 at 9:00 AM.

Trustees present: Laura Mears, Albert Feldstein, LaShay Harvey

MHT Staff: Elizabeth Hughes

I. CALL TO ORDER

Ms. Mears called the meeting to order at 9:31 AM. She noted that the purpose of the meeting was to take action on a time sensitive matter that could not wait until the regularly scheduled March meeting of the Board.

II. APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION OF APPRECIATION

Mr. Feldstein made a motion, seconded by Dr. Harvey, to approve the following resolution of appreciation to Donald “Jim” House who is retiring this month. The Committee voted unanimously to approve the resolution.

Resolution expressing appreciation and thanks to Donald “Jim” House for 34 years of service

Whereas the Maryland Historical Trust (MHT) was created in 1961 as an instrumentality of the State of Maryland for the purpose of preserving, protecting, and enhancing districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects significant in the prehistory, history, upland and underwater archeology, architecture, engineering, and culture of the State, to encourage others to do so and to promote interest in and study of such matters;

Whereas Jim House has served the State of Maryland since April 4, 1990;

Whereas he began his career in the Maryland Department of Natural Resources as a State Park employee at Point Lookout;

Whereas he became an MHT employee at Jefferson Patterson Park and Museum in October 3, 2007, because JPPM and MHT are objectively better places to work than DNR;

Whereas his experience in the Maryland State Park system translated quite well to JPPM which led to an immediate decrease in facilities issues on site;

Whereas he has played an especially important role in maintaining the site, leading facilities staff, and ensuring that large events occur safely, which all had an important effect on JPPM’s role in the community;

Whereas his long tenure at JPPM has given him a deep institutional knowledge of the site, JPPM’s operations, and the many ways by which things can go wrong at a moment’s notice;

Whereas he has plowed snow, moved mulch, cut down trees, dealt with angry animals, been harassed by the public, worked late, worked early, worked long hours, and seen many other staff come and go, all while remaining positive;

Whereas his dedication to JPPM is deep and true and comes across in any interaction with him;

Whereas he builds connections between JPPM, other State agencies, County departments, and many other organizations;

Whereas he is forgiven for cheating on us with Calvert Marine Museum;

Whereas he has generously offered his assistance throughout the years to both staff and the public and;

Whereas he is the rare person who makes a meaningful difference in people's lives;

Now, therefore, be it resolved that the Maryland Historical Trust Board of Trustees wishes to express its deep appreciation to Donald Jim House for his thirty-four years of service and to wish him a healthy, happy, and prosperous retirement and a rewarding next phase of life.

III.ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 9:15 AM.

S302 Justice Equity and Diversity Working Group Report

Nell Ziehl reported that the JEDI Working Group met on 2/27 to hear from guest speaker Alex Bauer, Equity and Engagement Planner for the Baltimore City Department of Planning. Mr. Bauer will share the department's equity efforts through the Equity in Planning Committee, equity framework, and Planning Academy. Future educational sessions like these will be shared with the full Board in case members have an interest in attending.

S303 Budget & Legislation

Ms. Hughes reported that no news is available yet regarding the FY26 state budget. The budget may not be resolved until a special session of the Maryland General Assembly.

She noted that cross-over day was on March 17th, meaning that those bills which did not cross over from one house to the other are not likely to pass during the legislative session. Those bills which did cross over which MHT is watching include:

HB258/SB4 - West North Avenue Development Authority Alterations – This bill exempts projects undertaken by this Authority from review under the MHT Act. This is not a favorable precedent.

HB509/SB354 – Maryland Inventory of Historic Cemeteries and Burial Sites Workgroup – Establishment - This bill creates a Workgroup staffed by MHT that will work over the summer and fall to make recommendations regarding the creation of a statewide cemetery inventory and cemetery grant program with a report due to the General Assembly by December 1, 2025.

SB980 – Natural Resources – Maryland Heritage Areas Authority – Funding and Grants – This bill would potentially increase funding for the program by \$6 million, decreases the percentage of funding that MDP may use to support program operations from 10 to 7 percent of the total appropriation of \$600,000 annually (whichever is greater), and makes changes to grant caps and

matching requirements. The bill also eliminates the ability for MDP to fund Non Capital Historic Preservation Grants with this funding source.

HB1010 – African American Heritage Preservation Program and Grant Fund – Noncapital Grants and Donations – This bill would permit the acceptance of grants and donations to support the award of funds for Non Capital projects through the AAHPP.

At the federal level, the federal fiscal year 2025 enacted budget includes funding for State Historic Preservation Offices at fiscal year 2024 funding levels. All of the various National Park Service Historic Preservation Fund grant programs remain intact as well. The President's budget for FY2026 should be forthcoming in the next month or so.

MHT continues to track how reductions in force at federal agencies, including the National Park Service and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, may impact its work.

Reauthorization of the Historic Preservation Fund and how the Federal Rehabilitation Tax Credit will be handled in the context of federal tax reform are also issues of concern.

S304 Litigation & Legal Issues

Mr. Snyder reported that the Office of the Attorney General has created a unit focused on reviewing actions being undertaken at the federal level which have the potential to impact state agencies like MHT. The Maryland Office of the Attorney General is working as part of a multi-state coalition on these matters.

Announcements

- Today is the deadline to register for the MHT Architectural Fieldwork Symposium which will take place in person at 100 Community Place on March 27th.
- Darius Johnson thanked MHT and MCAAHC staff for their assistance in organizing an in person grants workshop in Chestertown Maryland on April 11th. Upcoming African American Heritage Preservation Program grant application workshops include in-person workshops on April 11 in Chestertown and June 5 in Annapolis and virtual sessions offered March 24, April 25, and May 9 between 1:00 and 3:00 p.m.
- Al Feldstein announced that Professor Kenton Butcher of Bucknell University is conducting a study of Black Appalachian authors. Please contact him if you have any information.
- The May 15, 2025 Board meeting will be hosted by the Fire Museum of Maryland, located in Lutherville, Maryland.
- The next deadline for grants from the MD250 Commission is April 1. See MD Two Fifty Commission Funding Opportunities -<https://mdtwofifty.maryland.gov/grants-applications/>

Meeting adjourned at 12:05 PM.