

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
BOARD OF TRUSTEES' MEETING
Thursday, January 28, 2021 at 10:00 AM
Teleconference

Pursuant to notice, the regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Maryland Historical Trust was held by teleconference.

Trustees present: Mmes. Bashiri, Ernstein, Filkins, Mears, and Paca; Messrs. Alberg, Brown, Buchheit, Feldstein, Little, Parker, and Robinson

Area Representatives present: Mmes. Linder and Sasser; Messrs. Azola, Camlin, Charlton, and Stek

Ex-Officio Members: Delegate Jim Gilchrist and Secretary Robert Neall

Maryland Department of Planning: Robert McCord, Secretary

Office of the Attorney General: Paul Cucuzzella

MHT Staff: Marieka Arksey, Andrew Arvizu, Elizabeth Hughes, Kathy Monday, Greg Pierce, Anne Raines, and Jennifer Ruffner.

AGENDA

PUBLIC COMMENT

Ms. Hughes reported that no members of the public had signed up in advance of the meeting to provide public comment.

T1 CALL TO ORDER

Ms. Mears called the meeting to order at 10:04 AM. Ms. Hughes called the roll. A quorum of Trustees was present.

T2 APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Feldstein made a motion, seconded by Ms. Bashiri, that the October 22, 2020 Board meeting minutes be approved. The Board voted unanimously to approve the minutes.

T3 COMMITTEE REPORTS

T100 Capital Programs

No report

T200 Survey, Registration, Community Education & Museums

T201 Jefferson Patterson Park and Museum (JPPM) Report

Marieka Arksey, Assistant Director of JPPM, reported on ongoing and upcoming capital projects at JPPM including the Rites Trail, Shoreline Erosion Control, Patterson House, and Maryland Archaeological Conservation Lab expansion projects.

Mr. Parker inquired about how MHT informs minority businesses of the opportunity to bid on these contracts. Ms. Arksey responded that the Department of General Services, rather than MHT, is in charge of procurement and that each project has MBE business percentage requirements.

Mr. Stek inquired about the anticipated longevity of the shoreline erosion control revetments. Ms. Arksey explained that they are expected to last for at least 20 years, although there is variability depending upon whether the sills are above or below the water line.

T202 MHT-Crownsville Report

Ms. Hughes reported that MHT would begin providing the Board with quarterly reports on activities undertaken by MHT-Crownsville staff in order to keep Board members informed of new and ongoing initiatives that may be of interest. Deputy Director Anne Raines highlighted selected projects from the written report included in the Board packet.

Dr. Ernstein inquired about how public input could be sought on the update of the MHT *Standards and Guidelines for Archeological Investigations in Maryland*. Ms. Hughes responded that input would be sought from the Maryland Advisory Committee on Archeology as well as from the public at large.

T203 Maryland Semiquincentennial Commission

Ms. Hughes reported that, with the passage of the Semiquincentennial Commission Act of 2016, a federal commission was created that is charged with observance and commemoration of the 250th anniversary of the founding of the United States. This commemorative period will extend through 2027, with most events expected to take place in 2026. The federal commission has issued guidelines for planning 250th anniversary observances stipulating that activities should: 1. Encompass all of American history; 2. Be broad in geographical scope; and, 3. Look to the present and future as well as the past. To date, eight states have established entities responsible for administering and organizing 250th commemorations, including Kentucky, Michigan, New Jersey, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Tennessee, and Virginia.

In early January, Governor Hogan issued an Executive Order establishing the Maryland Semiquincentennial Commission. This 30-member body will be staffed by the Maryland Department of Planning (MDP) and the Governor's Office of Community Initiatives and is charged with: 1. Coordinating with the U.S. Semiquincentennial Commission; 2.) developing, encouraging, and executing inclusive commemorative events and programming; 3.) promoting

the identification, documentation, and preservation of cultural and historic resources related to the Semiquincentennial; and 4.) creating a model curriculum about the Revolutionary War period.

Anyone interested in being appointed to serve on the Commission should submit their information through the Governor's Office Appointments Portal. A link to the portal is included on the MDP website. The observance of this anniversary may be an opportunity for the MHT Board to propose or sponsor special initiatives related to historic site identification, documentation and preservation activities.

T300 Management & Planning

T301 Equity Working Group – Report

Mr. Parker reported on the most recent meeting of the Equity Working Group, noting that the group's focus going forward will be making changes to MHT programs and processes that are obstacles to making the state historic preservation program more equitable and supportive of the needs of diverse communities. While educational opportunities for Board members will continue to be identified and shared, the development of a unique educational program for MHT Board members will not be a priority activity since there are myriad opportunities already being offered by partner organizations.

Mr. Stek commended Mr. Parker's outstanding presentation and agreed that this was the correct direction that the Board should be taking. He then proposed that the Board send a letter to Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen in support of placing Harriet Tubman's image on the \$20 bill. Board members discussed this proposal at length, with some expressing strong support while others indicating discomfort about voicing dissent or taking action before additional information was made available. Chair Mears directed staff to determine whether action on the proposal could wait until the March Board meeting or was required in the near term. If action is necessary over the next few weeks, then staff will send information to Board members by email and request a vote by electronic ballot.

T302 Budget and Legislation

Ms. Hughes reported that the Governor's budget was released last week and includes level funding for MHT grant and tax credit programs. Considering the economic pressures place on the state budget due to the pandemic, this is very good news. MHT's funding allowance is as follows:

- African American Heritage Preservation Grant Program - \$1M
- Capital Historic Preservation Grant Program - \$600,000
- Maryland Heritage Areas Grant Program - \$6M
 \$300,000 of MHAA funds may be used for Non-Capital HP Grants
- State Historic Revitalization Tax Credit Program - \$9M

Ms. Hughes noted that only one bill impacting MHT programs has been filed to date. This bill (HB438/SB443) would extend eligibility for the Historic Revitalization Tax Credit Program to

certified historic structures owned by the Department of Natural Resources or one of its units and managed as a resident curatorship property.

Bills that would seek to increase the authorization for the Small Commercial component of the State Revitalization Tax Credit Program and that would create an African American Historic Cemetery Grant Program may also be forthcoming.

S303 Litigation and Legal Issues

Mr. Cucuzzella reported that the Maryland Division of the Sons of Confederate Veterans has filed suit against the Maryland Historical Trust in the Circuit Court of Anne Arundel County. The suit seeks to force MHT to require reinstatement of the three Baltimore City Confederate Monuments on which MHT holds an historic preservation easement. Mr. Cucuzzella has filed a motion to dismiss the case. It is unclear when the court may take up the case as the courts are very behind due to the pandemic.

Announcements

Upcoming meetings and grant deadlines are as follows:

- January 29, 2021 – Maryland Heritage Areas Authority Intent to Apply forms deadline.
- February 23, 2021 – Meeting of the Governor’s Consulting Committee on the National Register
- March 22, 2021 – Capital Historic Preservation Grant Program deadline
- March 31, 2021 – NPS Underrepresented Communities Grant Program deadline
- March 31, 2021 – NPS HBCU Grant Program deadline

The next meeting of the Board is scheduled for Thursday, March 18, 2021 at 10:00 AM and will be a virtual meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 11:48 PM