

**MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
BOARD OF TRUSTEES' MEETING**

Thursday, March 18, 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. Brown, Buchheit, Little, Parker, and Robinson

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

Ex-Officio Members: Senator Robert Neall

Maryland Department of Planning: Robert McCord, Secretary

Office of the Attorney General: Paul Cucuzzella and Rieyn DeLony

MHT Staff: Marieka Arksey, Andrew Arvizu, Collin Ingraham, Kate Jaffe, Monica Kitner, Elizabeth Hughes, Dana Marks, Kathy Monday, Anne Raines, Becky Roman and Patricia Samford.

AGENDA

PUBLIC COMMENT

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

The Board welcomed four new staff members including Becky Roman, Preservation Officer in the Office of Review and Compliance; Dana Marks, Preservation Officer in the Historic Tax Credit Program; Alexandra Glass, Patterson Center Archaeologist; and, Monica Kitner, Conservator at the Maryland Archeological Conservation Lab.

The Board congratulated Anne Raines for her election to the Board of the National Conference of State Historic Preservation Officers.

U1 CALL TO ORDER

Ms. Mears called the meeting to order at 10:08 AM. Ms. Hughes called the roll. A quorum of Trustees was present.

U2 APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Robinson made a motion, seconded by Dr Ernstein, that the January 28, 2021 Board meeting minutes be approved. The Board voted unanimously to approve the minutes.

Approval of the minutes of February 19, 2021 was deferred to the May 13, 2021 meeting due to a copying error.

U3 COMMITTEE REPORTS

U100 Capital Programs

No report

U200 Survey, Registration, Community Education & Museums

U201R Harriet Tubman Currency Letter of Support Request

Ms. Mears reported that at the January 27th meeting of the Board, Area Representative Charlie Stek proposed that the Board send a letter to Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen in support of placing Harriet Tubman's image on the \$20 bill. Following discussion, the action was tabled in order to determine whether action on the proposal could wait until the March Board meeting. At the February 11th Executive Committee meeting, it was determined that action on the issue was not urgent and could be deferred until the Board's March meeting in order to give Board members time to learn more about the history of and reactions to the proposal. Background information on the process undertaken to make changes to U.S. currency designs and the timeline related to the proposal to place Harriet Tubman's portrait on the \$20 bill was distributed to Board members in advance of the meeting.

Mr. Stek commented that this initiative has been in the works for the past five years and that it is supported by the Governor as well as the Maryland Congressional delegation. Secretary McCord noted that Governor Hogan had sent a letter to Treasury Secretary Munchin on June 11, 2019 urging him to place Harriet Tubman's portrait on the \$20 bill.

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

RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees of the Maryland Historical Trust supports the redesign of \$20 Federal reserve notes with the likeness of Harriet Tubman and directs staff to communicate the Board's support for this initiative to U.S. Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen.

U202R Water's Edge Museum Letter of Support Request

Dr. Paca welcomed Board members to visit the Water's Edge Museum, located at 101 Mill Street, in Oxford, Maryland, either virtually or in person. The museum is fully accessible to all visitors and uses its collection of literature, paintings, lithographs, frescoes, drawings, and music to tell the story of the founding Black Families of America. She explained that the

mission of the museum is to empower the young people of today to find their place in history and identify their own positive and unique voice when facing contemporary issues and challenges.

Dr. Paca explained that the Water's Edge Museum is partnering with the Middle Passage Ceremonies and Port Markers Project, Inc., to host a ceremony and install a marker that will commemorate the forgotten history of Oxford, Maryland as the only documented Middle Passage stop on the Eastern Shore of Delaware, Maryland, and Virginia. Initially a major maritime tobacco port on colonial Maryland's Eastern Shore, Oxford is where many of Maryland's Founding Black Families first encountered American soil after surviving the horrors of the Middle Passage. The museum is seeking a letter of support from the Board for this initiative.

Mr. Charlton and Mr. Parker inquired whether references to the Town of Bladensburg or Christopher Lowndes, builder of Bostwick House, appeared in her research into Middle Passage ports in Maryland. Dr. Paca indicated that she would look into this question.

Ms. Uunila thanked Dr. Paca for sharing her research sources and indicated that they had already been helpful to projects that she was working on involving Calvert County history.

Mr. Buchheit indicated his interest in the project related to his work with the Pride of Baltimore and suggested that he would follow up with Dr. Paca outside of the meeting.

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

RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees of the Maryland Historical Trust supports the Water's Edge Museum's efforts to host a Middle Passage ceremony and marker interpreting the forced migration and enslavement of African people and directs staff to communicate the Board's support for this initiative to Ann L. Chinn, Executive Director of the Middle Passage Ceremonies and Port Markers Project, Inc.

U203 Jefferson Patterson Park and Museum (JPPM) Report

Marieka Arksey, Assistant Director of JPPM, reported on ongoing and upcoming capital projects, outreach activities, and special events at JPPM.

Secretary McCord commended the staff of JPPM for the thoughtful and careful planning they have undertaken in coordination with the Calvert County Health Department in anticipation of fully reopening JPPM facilities to the public.

U204 MHT-Crownsville Report

Anne Raines, Deputy Director, highlighted selected projects from the written report on MHT-Crownsville activities that was included in the Board packet.

Mr. Charlton inquired if the vehicle purchase for the Maryland Maritime Archaeology Program had been completed. Ms. Raines reported that the acquisition was still underway.

Mr. Parker thanked Ms. Raines for providing a report on MHT activities that reminded the Board of the breadth of work that the staff undertake.

U300 Management & Planning

U301R Betty Hobgood – Resolution of Appreciation

This item will be deferred to the May 13, 2021 meeting of the Board.

U302 Investment Committee Report

Mr. Parker, Chair of the Investment Committee, reported on the performance of the Board's investment portfolio to date and expressed satisfaction with Brown Advisory's conservative approach which is focused on long term growth.

U303 Interim Action of the Executive Committee

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE MHT BOARD OF TRUSTEES
February 11, 2021 at 9:00 AM
Teleconference Meeting Minutes

MHT Board Executive Committee: Laura Mears, Samuel Parker, Franklin Robinson, Albert Feldstein

MHT Staff: Elizabeth Hughes, Nell Ziehl

I. Call to Order

Laura Mears, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 9:02 AM

II. Historic Preservation Award – Category Revision

Ms. Hughes reported that MHT had received a preservation award nomination for two individuals in the category of Outstanding Individual Leadership at the Local Level for their work related to the preservation of the Haiti Cemetery, located in Rockville, Maryland. During the course of its review, the Survey, Registration, Community Education, and Museums Committee, which reviews all award nominations and makes recommendations to the full MHT Board, elected to change the category of the award to Outstanding Organizational Leadership. This award category is included within the "Leadership and Service" award classification. Award category changes are common as part of the review and recommendation process, based on the details of the nomination and the competitiveness within categories. The intent of the Committee in making this change was to be more inclusive by recognizing the contributions of the organization described in the nomination, which appeared to include the two named individuals.

The MHT Board of Trustees approved a 2021 Maryland Preservation Award for Outstanding Organizational Leadership at the Local Level to Haiti Cemetery Association at its December 2020 meeting.

MHT staff subsequently learned that the nomination was unclear about the relationship between the individuals initially nominated and the association eventually awarded. To meet the needs of the awardees and respond to the Committee's desire for a shifted focus, MHT staff, in consultation with the nominator, propose that the award be changed to:

Project Excellence: Preservation Partnerships
Hannelore B. Quigley, James J. Demma, Esq., and the Haiti Cemetery Association for
Haiti Cemetery

This award would focus more on the Haiti Cemetery itself, which is one of the earliest burying grounds in Rockville and founded by the heirs of Samuel Martin, who was born into slavery. The award would celebrate the collaboration of community members in protecting and stewarding the property.

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

RESOLVED, that the Maryland Historical Trust Board of Trustees rescinds its December 3, 2020 approval of the 2021 Maryland Preservation Award to the Haiti Cemetery Association (Montgomery County) in the category of Outstanding Organizational Leadership at the Local Level and approves of the 2021 Maryland Preservation Award to Hannelore B. Quigley, James J. Demma, Esq., and the Haiti Cemetery Association for Haiti Cemetery in the category of Project Excellence: Preservation Partnerships.

III. Harriet Tubman Currency Proposal – Discussion

Ms. Mears reported that she had spoken with Area Representative Charlie Stek regarding his request, presented at the January meeting, that the Board send a letter in support of placing Harriet Tubman's image on the \$20 bill to the Secretary of the Treasury. In so far as action on the issue is not urgent, he agreed that it would be advisable to include discussion of the proposal at the Board's March meeting in order to permit all Board members to become better educated about the issue and take an informed position. The Executive Committee agreed that this was an appropriate approach.

IV. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 9:35 AM

U304 Budget and Legislation

Ms. Hughes reported that the MHT is anticipating level funding for its operating budget and financial assistance programs in fiscal year 2022 which is very good news considering the many economic challenges that have been posed by the pandemic.

Ms. Hughes noted that MHT is tracking the following bills that are of particular interest to MHT:

- HB539/SB447 – Historic Revitalization Tax Credit - Certified Historic Structure and Single-Family, Owner-Occupied Residence - Definitions
- HB865/SB659 – Historic Revitalization Tax Credit – Small Commercial Projects - Alterations
- HB1099 – Historic African American Cemetery Preservation Bill and Study
- HB1364/SB946 – Historic St. Mary’s City Fort to 400 Commission
- SB885 – Income Tax Credit for Catalytic Revitalization Projects

To date, only HB539/SB447 has crossed over into the opposite chamber. The deadline for crossover is March 22.

U305 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. The case will be heard on Monday, April 12th.

Announcements

Upcoming meetings and grant deadlines are as follows:

- March 22, 2021 – Capital Historic Preservation Grant Program deadline

The next meeting of the Board is scheduled for May 13, 2021 at 10:00 AM and is expected to be a virtual meeting. Staff will inquire regarding the availability of conference rooms at 100 Community Place in Crownsville, Maryland capable of hosting a socially distanced, in person meeting in July or later in the year.

Meeting adjourned at 11:34 AM.