

Cecil House Restoration Board Meeting Minutes

March 17, 2010

The chairman opened the meeting at 19:00 Hrs. The minutes of the January meeting were approved as distributed.

The Chairman reviewed the principle that board members are appointed by executive order of the President of the Town Commissioners and approved by the Commissioners. Committees and sub-committees of the board may of course include people who are not board members.

Ron provided 4 updates on board activity:

1. Rebecca Shepherd, University of Delaware Center for Historic Architecture and Design, got a Maryland Historic Trust (MHT) grant to document historic houses. The Cecil Hotel is their first priority and they plan to come about 0900 on 7 April.
2. Ron met with the Town Commissioners and lobbied for inclusion of our work in the new budget. The "Charlestown Chatter" can be used to recruit interviewees for oral histories and also to inform the townspeople of the progress we're making.
3. The town is putting together an application for a \$50,000 matching grant from the MHT.
4. He followed up with Dave Rudolph who thought he might have found a funding source; but the bond program was not a good fit for our needs.

The committee discussed activities that might be undertaken in the absence of outside funding, such as clean-up, fix up activities, opportunities for volunteers, such as Scouts to do some projects, perhaps an archaeological dig in the yard.

Prosper Boudart moved that a sign be designed and erected designating the property as a historic restoration site, with the design and wording of the sign to be reviewed by the committee at the next meeting. Bob Phillips seconded the motion and the motion passed.

Henry Burden moved that the draft conceptual plan be accepted as distributed and forwarded to the MHT for approval. Prosper Boudart will add cost estimates to it and that version to be given to the Town Commissioners. Audrey Edwards seconded the motion, which passed.

Henry moved that Ron make a proposal to the Town Commissioners that \$50,000 for the Cecil Hotel be included as a line item in the Town's 2010-2011 budget. Prosper Boudart seconded the motion. The motion passed. In support of the motion, the board encourages all members to attend the Town's budget hearing and to prepare a short speech in their own style regarding the project. These paragraphs should be ready by the April meeting to allow coordination.

Prosper reported that Heather Hill of American Interiors made a presentation to the Board members present on 18 Feb. Her ideas were good regarding the kitchen and baths and the costs in the area of the kitchen were \$20,000 to \$40,000.

The committee discussed the idea of promoting an open house during Riverfest in September. Susan Gell volunteered to interface with the Riverfest committee. Such a showing of the Cecil Hotel might both inform the public and promote the sale of the property to an interested buyer. Ron will present the idea to the Town Commissioners for their approval.

The meeting was adjourned at 20:45 hrs.
Dick Price, Secty.

Present at the meeting: Prosper Boudart, Henry Burden, Audrey Edwards, Ron Edwards, Susan Gell, Charles Murphy, Bob Phillips, Richard Price, and guest Becky Phillips