

Kent County Historic Preservation Commission Meeting Summary

The Kent County Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) met on Thursday, June 22, 2023, at 6:00 p.m. in the County Commissioners' Hearing Room at 400 High Street, Chestertown, Maryland. It was a hybrid meeting, and the following HPC members were in attendance: Jeremy Rothwell (remotely), Max Ruehrmund (remotely), Jennifer Moore (remotely), and Melinda Zupon (remotely). Staff in attendance were William Mackey, DPHZ Director; Carla Gerber, DPHZ Deputy Director; Mark Carper, Associate Planner; and Campbell Safian, Planning Specialist.

Jeremy Rothwell called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

MINUTES

Mr. Ruehrmund moved to accept the minutes of April 6, 2023, as presented. Ms. Moore seconded the motion, and the motion passed with all in favor.

APPLICATIONS FOR REVIEW

John Kennedy House – Certificate of Appropriateness Application – Installation of Solar Panels
11943 Augustine Herman Hwy, Kennedyville

- All four Commission members that were present spoke in opposition to the installation of solar panels on the front gable side of the roof that faces Maryland Route 213.
- Mr. Rothwell noted that solar panels are not advised on the front face of the side gabled roof according to the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation.
- Mr. Rothwell cited a Preservation Brief from the National Park Service, which states that "solar panels installed on a historic property in a location that cannot be seen from the ground will generally meet the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation. Conversely, an installation that negatively impacts the historic character of a property will not meet the Standards."
- Mr. Ruehrmund moved that the Certificate of Appropriateness would not allow solar panels on the front gable side facing Maryland Route 213. It is recommended that the panel boxes be moved to the side rear section of the house, as far back away from the street as possible. It is requested that updated drawings be submitted, which reflect these changes to the project. The motion was seconded by Ms. Moore, and the motion passed unanimously, 4-0.

GENERAL DISCUSSION

Discussion about the invitation to serve as a consulting party in the Cypress Branch Dam Removal Project:

- The purpose of the dam removal is to restore Cypress Branch to riverine conditions to ensure fish and aquatic species can pass upstream and downstream without impediments.
- The Cypress Branch Mill Pond Dam has been determined eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP).
- The Commission is interested in participating in the Cypress Branch Dam Removal Project.

GENERAL DISCUSSION

Discussion of member appointments:

- Ms. Beckley and Mr. Ruehrmund are both interested in continuing to serve.
- Mr. Rothwell recommended Darius Johnson and Joan Horsey.
- Mr. Ruehrmund recommended John Hutchison.
- Ms. Moore recommended A. Elizabeth Watson.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Ruehrmund moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion received a second from Ms. Zupon. The meeting adjourned at approximately 6:55 p.m.

Jeremy Rothwell, Acting Chair

Campbell Safian, Planning Specialist

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