

CHATHAM COUNTY HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION MEETING

REGULAR MEETING  
112 EAST STATE STREET

ARTHUR A. MENDONSA HEARING ROOM

December 11, 2006

2:00 P.M.

MINUTES

CCHPC Members Present:

Daves Rossell, Chairman  
Alexander Luten, Vice-Chairman  
Vaughnette Goode-Walker  
William Haynes  
Stephen T. Lindell  
Pamela G. Lossing  
Christian Sottile  
Lisa L. White

CCHPC Members Not Present:

George Cohen

CCHPC/MPC Staff Members Present:

Ellen Harris, Historic Preservation Planner  
Janita Thompson, Receptionist

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 2:00 p.m.

II. WELCOME

Dr. Rossell welcomed everyone to the meeting.

III. INTRODUCTIONS

Ms. Harris introduced Mr. Buddy Sullivan, a historian, author, and director of the Sapelo Island National Estuarine Research Reserve. He is a lecturer and author of 14 published books relating to maritime and the agricultural history of coastal Georgia. His most recent book is, "Georgia: A State History", published in association with the Georgia Historical Society, where he is a member on the Board of Curators. Today's presentation is entitled, "Life, Labor, and Landscapes on the Georgia Coast."

Mr. Buddy Sullivan thanked the Commission for inviting him to speak. Mr. Sullivan presented a slide show and discussed the evolution of Coastal Georgia, the interaction of the environment with the people, and the economy in relation to the eco-system.

Dr. Rossell asked about the oyster fishery declining.

Mr. Sullivan stated it declined for reasons similar to the timber and the shrimp. There was over-harvesting of the resource, not enough conservation, or reseeded of oyster beds along the coast prior to the people having an understanding of the importance of this practice. He said

there are very few oystermen left on the coast of Georgia, but there may be a few in Chatham County.

**Dr. Rossell** thanked Mr. Sullivan for his presentation, said Mr. Sullivan was an active scholar who gave frequent talks, and mentioned that Mr. Sullivan would be speaking at the Vernacular Architecture Forum conference in March.

#### **IV. ELECTIONS: CHAIRMAN AND VICE-CHAIRMAN**

**Ms. Harris** stated the Commission elected Dr. Rossell as Chairman and Mr. Luten as Vice-Chairman in May. She reviewed the minutes from the meeting and it stated the terms would end in December 2006, at which time there would be new elections. She felt it was a short period and recommended the existing terms be extended for one more year. She said their terms on the Chatham County Historic Preservation Commission do not expire until 2008, and asked how the Commission felt about the extension, and how the Chairman and Vice-Chairman felt about accepting the extension until December of 2007.

**CCHPC ACTION:** Mr. Lindell made a motion that the Chatham County Historic Preservation Commission does hereby approve the extension of the terms of Dr. Rossell as Chairman and Mr. Luten as Vice-Chairman for one more year. Mr. Sottile seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

#### **V. UPDATES**

- A. Contact With Communities/Individuals Interested in District or Property Nominations

**Ms. Harris** stated that letters had been sent to communities and individual properties currently listed on the National Register of Historic Properties located within their jurisdiction. These include ten different individuals and/or organizations. Additionally, a property owner on Wilmington Island whose property had not been previously identified as eligible contacted her. She stated she has an appointment to visit the property.

- B. Historic Preservation Calendar

**Ms. Harris** stated each Commissioner has a complimentary calendar. The calendars are for sale for \$5.00, which covers the cost for printing.

- C. Earth Fair

**Ms. Harris** stated she and Ms. Lossing manned a booth at the Earth Fair. She said it was a nice day and there were other interesting vendors, but not a lot of participation by the public. It was Chatham County's first Earth Fair and she thought next year would be better attended.

#### **VI. Other Business**

- A. Coastal Heritage Society - Letter of Support

**Ms. Harris** stated Ms. Rita Elliott contacted her and asked if the Commission would write a letter of support for a grant application that the Coastal Heritage Society is pursuing. They are identifying and documenting Revolutionary War sites. She proposed the Commission give them their full support.

**CCHPC ACTION:** Mr. Lindell made a motion that the Chatham County Historic Preservation Commission does hereby approve a supportive letter to the Coastal Heritage Society as recommended. Mr. Haynes seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

B. Card for Janine Person

**Ms. Harris** stated Janine Person has been out due to surgery, and Ms. White suggested a card be sent.

## **VII. Adjournment**

**Dr. Rossell** announced that the next meeting would be held on Wednesday, January 3, 2007, at 2:00 P.M. in the Arthur A. Mendonsa Hearing Room.

There being no further business to come before the Chatham County Historic Preservation Commission the meeting was adjourned at approximately 2:45 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ellen Harris,  
Preservation Planner

EH/jnp