

CHATHAM COUNTY HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION MEETING

**REGULAR MEETING
110 EAST STATE STREET**

ARTHUR A. MENDONSA HEARING ROOM

November 1, 2006

2:00 P.M.

MINUTES

CCHPC Members Present:

**Daves Rossell, Chairman
George Cohen
Vaughnette Goode-Walker
William Haynes
Stephen T. Lindell
Pamela G. Lossing
Christian Sottile
Lisa L. White**

CCHPC Members Not Present:

Alexander Luten, Vice-Chairman

CCHPC/MPC Staff Members Present:

**Ellen Harris, Historic Preservation Planner
Janine N. Person, Administrative Assistant**

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

Dr. Rossell asked the Commission and Staff members to introduce themselves.

IV. GUEST SPEAKER

Ms. Harris introduced the guest speaker, Dr. Mark Newell, an archaeologist with the Georgia Archaeological Institute in Augusta, Georgia. Dr. Newell has over 20 years of experience in canal archaeology, and has worked in South Carolina as well as Georgia. Dr. Newell led the search program that found the Hunley in 1994. He has worked with the Savannah Ogeechee Canal Society for 13 years.

Dr. Newell thanked the Commission for the opportunity to speak. Dr. Newell gave an interesting pictorial briefing of the locks, gates, basins, and archaeological excavations of the Savannah and Ogeechee Canal.

Mr. Lindell stated Lock 5 is close to Armstrong Atlantic State University College, and it could draw people from a wide area. He asked how long it would take to get the lock cleaned and operational.

Dr. Newell stated it would take approximately 18 months to two years before they have the first lock complete. They estimate three to five months for the archaeology, and then they will need additional funding for some of the work on the lock. He agreed with Mr. Lindell that the Abercorn Extension and I-95 routes are ideal for bringing in visitors. The City of Pooler is interested in Lock 3, and Dr. Newell wants to include them in getting the restoration underway. The east bank of the canal, including Lock 4, was used as a road bed. It can't be restored unless the county reroutes the road away from the canal. Therefore, Lock 4 does not have the potential. Lock 2 is in an undeveloped area and has collapsed. The downtown lock has considerable potential in its development, and is accessible. He said there are six locks, and the sixth lock is on the Ogeechee River. They will eventually need to restore it to cut off tidal flow and control the water flow on that section of the canal.

Mr. Lindell asked if the canal were completely open how long would it be.

Dr. Newell stated it would be 16.5 miles. He said it would be nice but may not be practical because I-95 blocks the canal and it would be a major project.

Mr. Haynes asked about the extent of on-going activity.

Dr. Newell stated the Canal Society, which has done a great job in preserving the vision of the canal, has 400 to 700 members with an active core of 50 to 60 people. He said he has 10 to 15 people working on the archaeology on the canal.

Ms. Goode-Walker asked if there are any plans to reconstruct the gatekeeper's house.

Dr. Newell said it is on private property, and the property owner is scheduled to be the next Canal Master of the society and is supportive of their work. The property owner is amenable to making the project available to the public. They will eventually clear the entire wooded area, open up the foundation, and map the lockkeeper's house. As the excavation goes on, they will build walkways so the public may view the archaeology. The Canal Society may build a replica of the lockkeeper's house as part of a museum facility.

Dr. Rossell thanked Dr. Newell and said it was informative and directly related to the Commission's mission.

V. UPDATES

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

Ms. Harris stated she had contact with the different communities and individuals. She spoke with the Sandfly Neighborhood Association on October 12, 2006, and they are in the process of preparing their application in conjunction with the consultant also preparing the National Register application. They would like to have the application turned in before the end of the year.

B. New Brochure

Ms. Harris stated that the Metropolitan Planning Commission produced brochures for the Chatham County Register of Historic Places, to be used as handouts for interested parties. As the Commission receives new applications, a brochure may be produced on each district that comes forward. The brochures are newly created, will be placed in the Public Information Office.

C. Historic Preservation Calendar

Ms. Harris said the Metropolitan Planning Commission Historic Preservation Department is working on a Historic Preservation calendar for 2007. The tentative date of completion will be November 18, 2006, the date of the Chatham County Earth Fair. There are pictures from both unincorporated Chatham County and the City. The Chatham County Historic Preservation Commission, Historic District Review Board, and the Metropolitan Planning Commission members will be listed on the back of the calendar.

D. Historic Preservation License Plate

Ms. Harris stated that the Historic Preservation license plates can be pre-ordered. There is a proposed constitutional amendment to be voted on November 7, 2006. The election will include Amendment 3 that will affect all special license plates, including the Historic Preservation plate. If the amendment passes, all revenues from the sales of the Historic Preservation license plates will go directly to the Georgia Heritage Grant fund. If it fails, revenues from the sales will become part of the general fund and then redistributed to the grant fund.

**E. Earth Fair Reminder- November 18, 2006, 10:00-4:00
Tom Triplett Community Park**

Ms. Harris said she will have a booth at the earth fair, she hopes the calendars will be ready. She will have the new brochures on hand.

VI. OTHER BUSINESS**VII. MINUTES – Approval of Minutes – October 4, 2006**

CCHPC ACTION: Mr. Lindell made a motion that the Chatham County Historic Preservation Commission does hereby approve the minutes as submitted. Ms. Lossing seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

Dr. Rossell announced that the next meeting will be held on Wednesday, December 6, 2006, 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 2:55 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ellen Harris,
Preservation Planner

EH/jnp