



## Historic Preservation Commission - May 21 2026 Minutes

Thursday, May 21, 2026 at 4:00 PM

Patuxent Building, Office of Land Use & Growth Management 23150 Leonard Hall Dr. Leonardtown, MD 20650

### 1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 4:00 p.m.

### 2. Roll Call

Members in Attendance: Eve Love, Patricia Samford, Teresa Wilson, Jocelyn Copeland, Christine McKay

Staff in Attendance: Courtney Jenkins, Gabrielle Gleissner, Valinda Clark

### 3. Approval of the Agenda

I move to approve the agenda for the May 21 meeting.

Moved by: Mary McKay; seconded by: Teresa Wilson

**Motion Carries.**

### 4. Approval of the Minutes

I move to approve the minutes of the April 23 meeting.

Moved by: Patricia Samford; seconded by: Mary McKay

**Motion Carries.**

### 5. New Business

#### A. Grants Subcommittee Update

Eve gave an update from Grants Subcommittee. Staff has opened an account on the Maryland Historic Trust website and the subcommittee is refining the topic which will be Documenting Non-Tobacco Farm Agriculture Buildings. There are 2 items the subcommittee is working on; the St. Mary's County Commissioners approval to pursue the grant which includes drafting a summary that details the scope of work that will be presented to them and complete the intent to apply form by Jun 24. The subcommittee is populating a database of potential sites and will set up a date for the next meeting

through staff.

B. Human Interest Story/Promoting HPC Awards

At the last meeting members expressed interest in discussing the promotion of the HPC Awards year-round in the form of a human-interest story. Christine had an idea to follow along when someone is going through the process of applying for a grant or starting a new project. The HPC could document and take pictures of what the building looks like before they get started and do updates periodically. Eve mentioned a contact who might know of upcoming projects and will provide contact information to Christine. Staff have begun drafting a news release and presentation to announce the recipients of the awards.

C. Discussion

Next lecture will have sign up for email list. Jocelyn at the Oyster Festival they did have clipboard for them to sign up for mailing list. Meeting for Oyster Festival is in a week or two to the Committee and to better support the HPC goals and missions for our own group this year would like to structure exhibits. Will still have the oyster items and add to the exhibit. Focusing on things in the county that have and have not been preserved over the years. If the volunteers feel that the oyster exhibit in addition to everything else, they are doing, maybe can do the oyster exhibit next year. Send feedback on this issue when they have the committee meeting.

Staff received 2 inquiries from citizens:

- Received email from a citizen asking about a private cemetery listed in St. Mary's County Cemetery Project Database called Cecil's Farm located in Valley Lee (2nd district). He is looking at family names of Dean and Lynch and researching his genealogical connection to Thomas Lynch whose tombstone was discovered in the cemetery. Christine said that she has some information on it and is willing to contact him. Staff will contact Maryland State Highway to try and gain information about the location of the cemetery. Eve stated that she thinks it is the law that the family members can request to visit the grave site if it is on their property with permission, staff will also look into this.
- A citizen is looking to place handicap ramps at the Newtowne St. Francis Xavier's Church. It has historical significance and he would like to know what he is allowed to do as a member. Modifications would include steps inside and outside of the church. The HPC recommends that the citizen contact the archdiocese and if modifications are made, it would preferably be something portable. Staff will share this information with him.

Jocelyn asked if staff could reach out to Ruth Mitchell, one of the previous HPC lecture speakers, about the offer she made to give members a tour of the Brick Chapel and St. Mary's City Visitors Center. Staff advised they would reach out to Ruth and coordinate this.

## 6. REPORTS

A. MJSB26-0118 00000 Great Mills Rd., Great Mills

Members expressed concern about the location of this project. Staff advised them that the project will go through all the standard agency reviews and will be presented to Planning

Commission, where public comment is accepted.

B. MSUB25-0249 26740 North Earnshaw Way, Mechanicsville

C. MSUB26-0156 48475 Sandys Way, Lexington Park

This project is for a farmstead and Patricia asked what a farmstead is defined as. Staff provided the definition of “an area 15 acres or more assumable ownership which is a lot of record”.

D. MSUB26-0127 21680 Tammie Dr., Great Mills

According to SDAT, there is a primary structure on this lot, but when staff went out to complete the review, no structures were found. Staff have asked the planner on the project to reach out to the owners to inquire about the structure. Staff will follow up with members on this.

E. MSUB26-0128 00000 Tammie Dr., Great Mills

Christine asked how long does a lot have to be established before it can be built on. Staff advised they'd have to look into this but will follow up with members.

F. MSP26-0148 23971 Mervell Dean Rd., Hollywood

Members asked if a metal canopy, which they already have several on property, requires a permit and staff replied that it does.

## 7. Old Business

A. HPC Lecture Series

At the last meeting Jocelyn suggested staff reach out to Nicholas Redding from Preservation Maryland about being a featured speaker. Staff spoke to him and coordinated the upcoming lecture that will take place on Wednesday, August 26, 2026, at 6:00 p.m. in the Commissioners Meeting Room. Staff will share the flyer once it is complete. The topic is “The Only Revolutionary War Battle in Maryland” that took place at St. George Island.

## 8. Announcements

A. HPC's next meeting is on June 25 at 4:00 p.m.

B. Launch of the Southern Maryland National Heritage Area Master Plan on June 22, 2026  
Staff attended the Potomac Heritage Trail Meeting in Lexington Park a few weeks ago. Lucille Walker spoke about the Southern Maryland National Heritage Area and the upcoming launch of a Master Plan for the Southern Maryland Heritage Area on June 22, 2026. Staff will forward the event information and Google Form for registration to members.

## 9. Adjourn

A. Adjourn

I move to adjourn the May 21 meeting at 4:42 p.m.

Moved by: Teresa Wilson; seconded by: Eve Love

**Yea:** Mary McKay, Teresa Wilson, Eve Love, Jocelyn Copeland, and Patricia

Samford

**Not Present at Vote:** April Yates, Jeremy Hanson, and Matthew Riedel

**Motion Carries. 5-0**