



## Resource Stewardship and Visitor Experience Advisory Committee

Maryland Historical Trust  
100 Community Place, Room 1, 100B, Crownsville  
August 9, 2011, 2:00 PM

### Meeting Summary

#### Welcome and Introductions

In attendance: Kathi Ash, Jeff Buchheit, Wayne Clark, Suzanne Copping, Ed Day, Bill Dudley, Ralph Eshelman, Richard Hughes, Burt Kummerow, Kate Marks, John Maounis, Kim Nielsen, Bill Pencek, Kim Popetz, Robert Reyes, Sarah Rogers, Julie Schablitsky, Don Shomette, John Sower, Mark Thompson, Anna von Lunz.

#### Review of July 2010 meeting summary

The July 13, 2010 meeting summary was approved as presented.

#### Star-Spangled Banner National Historic Trail planning updates

Suzanne Copping provided the update. The Interpretation and Visitor Experience plan was developed with the input of Trail partners. Four themes have been developed to define visitor experiences along the trail/byway. These themes relate events; civilian and untold stories; commercial, political and social context; and enduring symbols. The four themes are:

- Almost thirty years after gaining independence, Americans resisted a land and water invasion by Great Britain, and military events in the Chesapeake Bay region became central to the outcomes of a broader three-year struggle that established a foundation for the United States' economic independence and military strength.
- During the War of 1812, individuals in the Chesapeake Bay region endured great political, economic, and emotional upheaval and faced personal choices that profoundly impacted domestic life, influenced the evolution of U.S. government and commerce, and had ramifications far beyond the battlefield.
- In the early 1800s, the Chesapeake Bay region – due to its central location on the eastern seaboard, network of navigable waterways, robust natural resources, and fertile agricultural lands – served as a hub for trade, industry and government, and thus, was a prime target for the British.
- The United States flag and “The Star-Spangled Banner” anthem – symbolizing the endurance of both the new nation and the American character – inspired a renewed sense of nationalism in U.S. citizens after the War of 1812, and endure today as potent international icons of the United States of America.

The water-trail plan for the Star-Spangled Banner National Historic Trail identifies 11 strategic areas along the trail where increased access, stewardship and interpretation could enhance visitor experiences. The plan calls for a total investment of \$3.33 million.

Scouting and development of criteria for the locations of wayside markers along the Trail/Byway has begun. Installation will take place in three phases: phase one: Southern Maryland from Solomons to Bladensburg (spring 2012); phase two: Upper Chesapeake and Eastern Shore; phase three: Baltimore City and County.

The Trail's Advisory Council has begun to meet. A draft plan of the comprehensive management plan (CMP) is expected by the end of the year. The goal is to have it ready for a 2012 National Road application.

Concepts plans have been developed for areas with clusters of 1812 resources. These plans go into more depth and provide priorities for project funding and cost estimates.

#### Archeology

##### Scorpion

Archaeologists from the Maryland Historical Trust, U.S. Navy and Maryland State Highway Administration – in partnership with the Maryland War of 1812 Bicentennial Commission –initiated a second season of searching for a War of 1812 shipwreck in the Patuxent River near Upper Marlboro in Prince George's County. The archeologists are closer to identifying what could be Commodore Joshua Barney's flagship, the *Scorpion*. Current plans call for an excavation of the ship in 2012. Underwater filmmaker Nick Caloyianis recorded portions of the excavation as part of a Maryland Public Television 30-minute documentary about the project. A second crew, YAP Films, also filmed the excavation for a Canadian documentary about the War of 1812. The search for the *Scorpion* is partially funded through the federal Transportation Enhancement Program, which funds non-traditional, community-based transportation-related projects.



## Resource Stewardship and Visitor Experience Advisory Committee

Maryland Historical Trust  
100 Community Place, Room 1,100B, Crownsville  
August 9, 2011, 2:00 PM

### Bladensburg

A second grant has been secured for archeology on the Washington, D.C. portion of the Battle of Bladensburg battlefield. Rick Ervin of SHA is involved with the project.

### Caulk's Field

An extension has been requested for the Caulks Field grant funding. An easement deal is in negotiation with the Eastern Shore Land Conservancy.

### **Related plan updates**

#### North Point

Jay Doyle, the County representative on the Baltimore County War of 1812 Committee has been using the concept plan for bicentennial improvement projects in North Point.

#### Town of Bladensburg Green Street

The Town of Bladensburg has continued its planning for a Green Street along MD Route 450. A Community Green Street Task-Force comprised of local citizens and business owners including members of the Battle of Bladensburg Task Force, Port Towns Community Health Initiative Group, and Bladensburg Local Development Corporation has been created. The project also received two grants from the Chesapeake Bay Trust to support the planning and design of the Green Street and storm water remediation. Discussions on 1812 site markings along the street included sidewalk plaques or clusters of cannon balls. Design completion is expected by Dec. 18, 2013 and construction is slated to begin April 1, 2014.

#### Benedict

Cultural Resource Survey and Context Study for Benedict has met some resistance from locals who feel the tranquility of the area will be disrupted with the projects outlined in the place.

### **Star-Spangled 200 Grant Program- review of draft program outline**

Attendees reviewed the draft program outline for the Star-Spangled 200 grant program. The Commission established this program for capital and non-capital projects related to the bicentennial observance. Nonprofit organizations and local, state and federal government agencies are eligible to apply for matching grants in an amount of up to \$250,000. The initial application period was from Sept. 1 to Nov. 1. Awards are projected to be announced Feb. 2012. Subsequent grant cycles will be held with application deadlines in May 2012; Nov. 2012; May 2013; Nov. 2013; and May 2014. Eligible projects include: capital projects (site or property acquisition, development, restoration, pre-development, and archeology, in addition to design, fabrication and installation of permanent exhibits) and non-capital projects (planning, design, interpretation, programming and events). Surcharges from the U.S. Mint's sale of bicentennial commemorative coins and private contributions made to SS200 will fund the program.

### **Summary and next steps**

A review committee made up of Committee members will meet after Nov. 1 to review grants. The full committee will meet by the end of the year to review the grant committee's recommendations.