

MINUTES OF MEETING

TO: Suzanne Copping, Project Manager,
National Park Service

FROM: Shannon Kettering/ Faye Goolrick Ecos Environmental Design, Inc./ Goolrick
Interpretive Group (Consultant Team)

DATE COMPLETED: January 18, 2010

PROJECT: Star-Spangled Banner National
Historic Trail Interpretive Plan **PROJECT #:** 0929

SUBJECT: Interpretive Plan Stakeholder
Workshop
December 10, 2009
Upper Bay/ Havre de Grace,
Maryland; Havre de Grace Maritime
Museum

Meeting Agenda and Outcomes: The following are agenda items with corresponding feedback from attendees. ALL TEXT IN *BLUE ITALICS* WAS PRESENTED AT THE WORKSHOP BY THE CONSULTANT TEAM TO DEFINE DISCUSSION TOPICS AND GENERATE DIALOGUE AMONG THE ATTENDEES.

Star-Spangled Banner National Historic Trail Interpretive Plan Stakeholder Workshop #8

Welcome, Introductions, and Purpose

It was expressed to attendees that the purpose of the Interpretive Plan is to initiate a long-range vision for the interpretive programming of this trail, and to identify a number of actions necessary for implementing that interpretive vision. The purpose of this stakeholder workshop is to initiate the interpretive plan by gathering information from stakeholders regarding the stories, places (or resources) and potential visitor experiences. The meeting was interactive with the consultant team asking a series of questions to the attendees and then recording feedback on flip charts. To facilitate in the understanding of the trail's significance and past initiatives, project overview boards hung around the room providing answers to the following questions:

- A. *What is the purpose and significance of the Star-Spangled Banner National Historic Trail?*
- B. *Where is the Star-Spangled Banner National Historic Trail?*
- C. *Who is involved in the Star-Spangled Banner National Historic Trail and what other initiatives are occurring?*
- D. *Why an interpretive plan, and how will it be used?*
- E. *How is this workshop incorporated into the Interpretive Planning process?*

Attendees were provided handouts: 1) The Star-Spangled Banner National Historic Trail Information Sheet; 2) A copy of two of the project overview boards (A and D/E); 3) the Star-Spangled Banner National Historic Trail NPS Unigrid Brochure; and 4) the Star-Spangled Banner Trail War of 1812 Chesapeake Campaign Driving Map. The attendees were asked to introduce themselves and answer the following question:

1. What challenges and opportunities do you foresee associated with interpreting the Star-Spangled Banner National Historic Trail in the Upper Bay/ Havre de Grace, Maryland area?

Challenges

- Telling the story as a region
- Funding for implementation
- Encouraging DC and Virginia to join in this effort
- The existing map doesn't illustrate the Upper Bay; so then how does this become a priority for the locals?
- Accessibility for local youth (i.e. transportation to the sites)

- Distribution of funds to the locals (i.e. the ones implementing the programming/ maintaining the sites)

Opportunities

- Collaboration for/ between regions
- Linking the regions in/ through this effort
- Connecting Havre de Grace to Sassafras
- Identifying the resources to tell the story
- To educate and continue history, especially with children, to youth
- Opportunity for the local Havre de Grace community
- Acquaint students with their local history
- Develop “untold stories” and use for marketing
- Elevate the attention of State and awareness
- Reach the “potential partners”
- Provides/ continues the emphasis on the Chesapeake Bay – environmental, cultural, historic
- Potential local economic development
- Addition of the stories into the local curriculum
- Showcase the often “neglected” stories and incorporating these into the larger story
- Teaching these stories outside of the park/ NPS parks, historic sites, etc. and many opportunities ahead
- Building community through this effort

Additional Group Comments:

- The War of 1812 is an unknown war, and we need to put it into the school curriculum
- Need to capitalize on President Obama’s recent designation (May 2009) of the Chesapeake Bay as a National Treasure

Group Discussion: A Visitor Perspective

The Consultant team asked the workshop attendees the following questions:

2. While visiting the Upper Bay/ Havre de Grace, Maryland area, what should a visitor learn about the Star-Spangled Banner National Historic Trail? What significant stories, messages, or perspectives should be presented?

- Burning of Havre de Grace
- Fear of the region due to lack of national militia
- Local here story as a soldier
- Story of John O’Neill
 - First lighthouse keeper
 - Fired the cannon that attracted the British to Havre de Grace
 - Matilda and Cockburn’s snuff box
- Havre de Grace did not surrender/ raising the flag
- Heedy Bolden – forced to guide the British to Elkton and deceived/ mislead the soldiers
 - The African American story (slave)
- Story of the Principio Furnace
 - the reason the British were moving through the region;
 - the iron for the cannons;
 - “early proving ground”/ “the resources as a trail”; pre-industry of America in Maryland
- Story of Kitty Knight; Role of Women in the War of 1812 (poem)
- Rodgers (house/ tavern)- Father of the 1812 American Navy; Prominent family throughout the state
- “Locals” role in the many events of War of 1812 (i.e. Battle of Baltimore)
- Larger American “heroes” and their connections to Upper Bay
- Steamboat service (the Eagle) and stops in Frenchtown
- Early “industrial revolution”/ transportation along the Chesapeake (goods, connections)
- “Water as the highway”
- Story of Navy and the involvement of African Americans
- Havre de Grace as the potential U.S. Capitol? (until the burning)

- The burning and the destruction of the town, everyone fleeing; only a few residents perished; a few buildings prevail
- Story of the Battle/ skirmish of Frenchtown to Elktown
- Resilience of a community and of a nation
- Local citizens taking responsibility for their freedom

Additional Group Comments:

- 1812 artifacts for this area exist (sword and snuffbox), but they are at the Maryland Historic Society and at Jefferson Patterson Park archaeology center, not here in Havre de Grace
- The “rockets’ red glare” was HERE!
- This area has many famous citizens, including the “Father of the American Navy” and Robert Fulton, famous for steam boat

3. Where are the places (and types of places) that best teach these stories in the Upper Bay/ Havre de Grace, Maryland area?

Concord Point Lighthouse/ O’Neil House	✓✓✓✓✓✓✓✓
Elk Landing	✓✓✓✓✓✓✓✓✓✓✓✓
Rodgers Tavern	✓✓✓✓✓✓✓
Principio	✓✓✓✓✓✓✓✓✓✓
Downtown Havre de Grace/ Havre de Grace Episcopal Church	✓✓✓✓✓✓✓✓
Susquehanna State Park (Mansion Mill)	✓
Maritime Museum	✓
Boardwalk/ Waterfront in Havre de Grace (Promenade: Connects Tydings Park to Concord)	✓✓
Georgetown/ Kitty Knight House/ Fredericktown	✓✓✓✓✓✓✓
Elk Neck State Park	✓✓
Turkey Point in Elk Neck State Park	✓

✓ = # mentioned by attendees

Additional Group Comments:

- Heedy Bolden story best told at Elk Landing
- Many visitors come to the Cal Rifkin Stadium about an hour from here; can we capture some of this audience?

4. How many different types of visitors should we expect? How can these different types of visitors best learn about the stories of the Star-Spangled Banner National Historic Trail? What types of activities, programs, media, etc., can enhance visitors’ experiences at these places and reinforce visitors’ understanding of the many stories of these places?

- Organized Groups (clubs, interest groups, community organizations)
 - Geocaching
- Educational Groups
 - Interactive computer/ board game
 - Scavenger hunt
 - Living history to the school
 - Traveling trunk
 - Outdoor interactive (guided re-enactment) scheduled event
 - Workbook to be included in the curriculum
 - Teacher training/ curriculum guides
- Virtual visitors (internet)
 - Website (simple) with content
 - Star-Spangled Banner “mascot”
 - Application for cell phone
 - Video to be shared by the partners (and, for all collateral material to be shared between partners)

- Trail Neighbors/ Local Residents
 - Annual 'War of 1812' re-enactment event
 - Regatta/ Racing Competition (for boats on the water)
 - "Burning re-enactment"
 - "Special event" trolley/ golf cart tour throughout the area
- Special Audiences (special needs)
 - Interactive/ self access interpretation
 - Bus tours
- General Visitor/ Tourist ("Accidental" tourist)
 - Signage along highway and along the route
 - Low powered radio (i.e. AM radio station)
 - "Cell phone" interpretation
 - Billboards announcing Star-Spangled tour
 - GPS tracker tour/ mapping
 - Guided tour
 - International signage at the sites
 - Interactive kiosk/ self-access for oral history
 - Themed day trips for visitors
 - Potential 'Car-trip' maps/ itinerary
- Historians (Re-enactors)
 - Tavern/ pub crawl
- Baseball Fans/ Cal Ripken Stadium attendees
 - Promotion/ Awareness materials printed on food wrappers/ drink cups/ in the program
 - "History re-enactment" entertainment at Half time show
- Military (Aberdeen Proving Ground)
 - Guided "themed/ specialized" tour (on war strategy, etc)
 - Naval specialized (i.e. "staff ride curriculum")
- Recreational Visitor (i.e. Trail users, Kayak, Equestrian, Bicyclists, Boaters)
 - Boat tour/ water taxi
 - Kayak trail and signage
 - Collaborate with Captain John Smith International Buoy System
 - Podcast/ downloadable
 - Bicycle excursion tour
- International
 - Guided tour (language specific)
 - Themed day trips for cruise lines or for train passengers

Additional Group Comments:

- Involving Cal Ripken Jr./ Cal Ripken Stadium for raising awareness of Bicentennial events in the area
- Poster contest for children to develop a logo for use on marketing materials that would then raise funds and awareness for Bicentennial events/ programs
- Possible involvement with Mr. Christopher George and a historic play; and telling the story of the Theatre where the Star-Spangled Banner was first sung in Baltimore in 1814
- Possible involvement/ connections with Uriah P Levy (play: 'Levy's Ghost')/ The Uriah P Levy Center and Jewish Chapel in Annapolis for raising awareness

Wrap Up and Next Steps:

The Consultant team asked the workshop attendees one final question, while reiterating the planning schedule (identified on the Project Overview Board *E*) and asked all attendees to stay informed in this process by visiting www.nps.gov/stsp.

5. It takes many partners to interpret the resources along the Star-Spangled Banner National Historic Trail effectively. Who else should be involved in developing and implementing the interpretive plan? (Responses provided to consultant team via post-it/ sticky notes upon attendees departure)

- Aberdeen Proving Ground
- Arts Community

- Cal Ripken Stadium
- School Board
- Harford County Community College
- Vulcan
- Coca Cola
- Dupont
- University of Delaware
- Local Media Outlets/ Local Newspaper (i.e. "inserts")
- Hospitality Trade Association
- Cable Companies: Comcast, Atlantic Cable
- Public Schools
- Private Schools
- Home Teaching Organization
- Community Colleges
- Re-enactors
- State Park Service
- Heritage Troupe
- County Governments
- Lower Susquehanna Heritage Greenway
- Town Representatives
- Harford County
- Cecil County
- City of Havre de Grace
- Maryland Tourism
- Local Museums and Historical Societies
- Drama Troops (Children and Adult)
- Society of the War of 1812

These minutes constitute the author's understanding of the items discussed and conclusions reached. If there are any errors or omissions, please notify this author in writing within four (4) working days of receipt.

END OF MINUTES