

Virginia Beach Historic Preservation Commission December
6, 2017, 5:00 p.m. Towne Bank Building, 2101 Parks Avenue, Suite 500
Approved January 10, 2018

Attending:

Officers: Chair, William Gambrell; Immediate Past Chair, Bernice Pope; First Vice-Chair, James Wood; Second Vice-Chair, Sharon Felton; Secretary, Bobbie Gribble,

Members: Michel Ashe, Glenn Carwell, Jennifer Estes, Diane Horsley, James Jordan, Katie Paulson, Mac Rawls

Student Members: Sean Diment

Staff Liaison: Mark Reed, Carolyn Smith

Presenters: Edna Hendrix, Dr. Joanne Lucas

Public: Cheryl Scott

PURPOSE The purpose of the Commission is to advise the City Council and the Departments of Planning and Community Development and Museums on all issues related to the preservation of historic buildings, structures and sites located in the City of Virginia Beach.

MISSION The mission of the Commission shall be to preserve, protect and maintain the historic identity of Virginia Beach and the former Princess Anne County through a program of advocacy and increased public awareness and involvement.

Agenda

Welcome/Introductions/Remarks – Bill Gambrell

The meeting opened at 5:00

Presentation on African American Communities in Princess Anne County/Virginia Beach – Edna Hawkins Hendrix – Historian, Dr. Joanne H. Lucas – VBCPS Teacher (retired) and educational consultant

Edna Hawkins Hendrix received a 2016 research grant from the Commission
Dr. Lucas served as her sponsor, Dr. Lucas ended up being as involved in the project.
The combined efforts are superlative.

There is a book and a video which will be given to the Meyera Obendorf Virginia Beach Public Library

The African American History in Virginia Beach is more word of mouth. With the grant they were able to go into the court records.

Princess Anne County was created in 1691, these records are scarce. It was hard to pinpoint communities back that far.

A decision was made to look at the Freedman's Bureau Records from 1861. She also looked at Civil War Soldiers on the farms and the pay records. The communities are located near first farms formed during the Civil War which started in the 1860(s) and the 1900(s). She went

through Civil War Records then went back to the Court Records. They found records of former slaves purchasing land right after the Civil War.

What did African Americans do when the Civil War was over? It looks like it took some of them 15 - 20 years to buy property. It took them time to raise funds to purchase. Once they purchased land, they formed churches, lodges and schools.

There were three commonalities of all communities: churches, lodges, schools. There is deed information about all of them. Once they found out names of people from the deeds (for purchasing of properties). They also used the United States Census.

Lodges were very important, the first appearance was in the 18th century. By the 20th Century they were very prevalent, they could socialize and hone leadership skills. This was a place to be in charge, run a meeting and practice other leadership skills. It was a huge problem with death and being able to bury loved ones. The lodges offered insurance to bury. Funerals were pomp and circumstance, brought the community together. They had fraternal organizations for men and women: Masons and Eastern Star.

Second to the lodges was the church where people also learned leadership skills. Ebenezer Baptist Church was founded in 1859. It was not the first church to buy property, Union Baptist in the 1860(s) was the first to purchase property. Everything that went on in the community went on in the church, it was a place to worship and gather.

Schools – Black people placed a high priority on getting an education. In 1863 the first school for blacks was opened. The whole idea about the public education system was parents thought the key was education for their children to better themselves.

There were 20 plus communities that existed. Communities grew near farms.

There are many more Black communities to be researched. The focus of the project was on twelve. Information is still coming in, as it comes in the information will be updated and put in another book. Most of the communities in this study started after the Civil War. Edna Hendrix feels the history is in the deed books.

Seatack (a different grant) had freedman before the Civil War.

Approval of November 1, 2017 Minutes – Bobbie Gribble

Jim Wood made a motion that the minutes be approved. Diane Horsley seconded it. The approval of the minutes passed unanimously.

Report from the Nominating Committee – Bernice Pope

Chair: Bill Gambrell

First Vice-Chair: Jimmy Wood

Second Vice-Chair: Sharon Prescott

Secretary: Bobbie Gribble

The Election of Officers will take place on January 3rd

Keeping History Above Water Conference Overview – Mark Reed

There was so much information it was difficult to put the report together. Mark attended three of four days. The conference was from October 29 - 31, 2017.

It was an amazing amount of information. This was the second international conference, keeping history above water. The Historic Newport Foundation is the catalyst for this Conference. It was held in Annapolis. They are starting to get a lot of problems with recurrent flooding. Most of the speakers when they talked about projections for sea level rise referred to NOAA's report that came out in 2017. Three feet of sea level rise is projected by 2100. The City of Virginia Beach is looking at 1.5 feet by 2015 and then 3 feet by 2100.

See a copy of the slides from Mark's presentation at the end of these minutes.

Committee Reports

Cape Henry Historic Site – Mac Rawls Cape Henry Lighthouse Project

Members of the Committee visited Preservation Virginia officials on Oct. 27 to discuss construction schedules and funding for Cape Henry Light. The Committee was subsequently informed that PVA would support going to bid with the project ASAP, as opposed to their original position to wait another year. All things are now in place for the city to set up a bid session for the work. As a follow up to these discussions, the committee arranged a meeting - with the assistance of Rosemary Wilson - between PVA and VB Hotel Association Executive Committee on December 1 to discuss a gap funding proposal that would seek donations to fund operations of the lighthouse during the period of construction. Hopefully the bid will be advertised on the 17th of December.

They will close down during the construction period. There is a concern they will lose a lot of money. They had a concern about how to make ends meet. Bill Gambrell is taking the proposal to the Restaurant Group. They would like to have the Inn Keepers take people to the site and increase public awareness of Preservation Virginia. They are calling this their 'gap program' and are soliciting donations.

The committee journeyed to Corolla, NC on Nov. 2 to view operations of the Currituck Beach Lighthouse, with the intention of it having some application in the future to the 1881 VB lighthouse operations. It was a very enlightening experience that could in part serve as a model in the event that the 1881 lighthouse is declared surplus and made available for public use.

Princess Anne County Confederate Monument – Jimmy Wood, Sharon Felton

Sharon Felton: a list has been created of people they would like to sit on the Board. Mark Reed has told them about Doodle poll to set up a meeting time. The individuals will be credible with credentials.

Sharon and Jimmy are getting the letter together and will get it to the Commission for review.

They appreciate Mark Reed with his support and thoughts.

Princess Anne Courthouse – Glenn Carwell

We are nearly at the end of the project of the Courthouse. The National Park still has not signed off on the Courthouse and Municipal Center as a National Register Historic District. They anticipate it will happen soon.

When it is complete we should organize a plaque and present it to City Council and the Mayor.

Timeline: as soon as we get the designation from the Park Service.

Student Leaders – Sharon Felton, Sean Diment, Madeleine Penree

December 13th all students who applied to be on the Virginia Beach Historic Preservation Commission will be meeting. They will be reaching out to their student body about volunteering.

They will also be talking to the History Teachers at each H.S. to motivate them to become involved with preservation projects.

Sean Shared the flier he has created for the students to use in their schools. Please see it at the end of these minutes.

City-Owned Buildings and Sites Policies – Sharon Prescott, Chair

Please complete the survey and send it to Mark Reed. • Threatened Buildings and Sites – Jennifer Estes, Chair Please complete as many of the forms as you need and send them to Mark Reed.

Project Updates – Mark Reed

Archaeological Assessment - the project proposals came in higher than funding. DHR had enough grant money left over to put additional money to the project. \$28,700 is the project. The City will give \$10,000 and DHR will be providing \$18,700.

Cavalier Shores PIF - going to the state review board a week from tomorrow. Mark Reed and the President of the Cavalier Shores Civic League will go to support it. Mark Reed plans to say the VB Historic Preservation Commission will support the nomination if the proposed district is determined to be potentially eligible for listing on the National Register. DHR Staff has given positive feedback.

Old Business

Federal Tax Credit Program - it is not dead, however it is dying. Basically the Senate Bill has gone forward with the Federal Rehabilitation tax program at 20%. The House Bill has gone forward with it completely eliminated.

Mark Reed's understanding is there are Republican Congressman in Virginia who are going to try to preserve the Federal Tax Credit Program.

Media Inquiry - Mark Reed: it appears they are getting ready to move the Hickman House. Mark Reed checked with some of the planners, they have approved for moving it.

Pungo - Munden Store - Mark Reed: no action.

New Business

Adjournment - the Meeting was adjourned at 6:18.

**Next Meeting, Wednesday, January 3, 2018, 5:00 p.m., Towne Bank Building, Suite 500
#preserveVB**

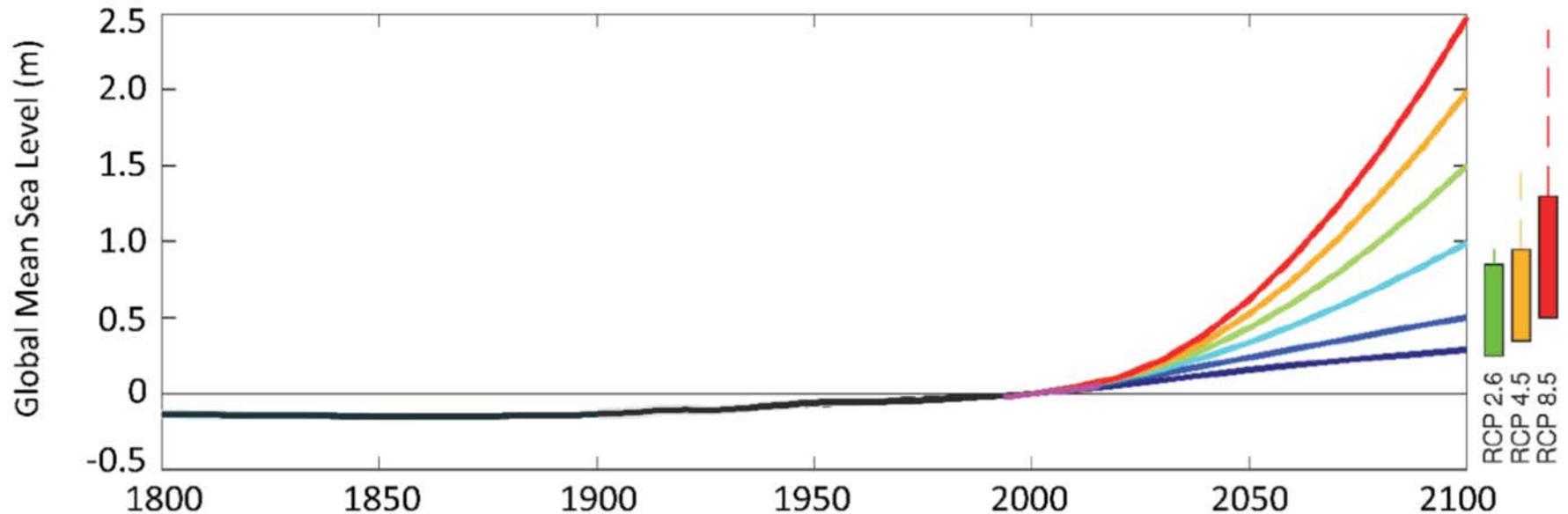
“Protect It, Preserve It, Post It”

Keeping History Above Water

October 29 - 31, 2017 – Annapolis, MD

- This was the second international conference on sea level rise/climate change, its

NOAA Global Mean Sea Level (GMSL) Scenarios for 2100



Keeping History Above Water

October 29 - 31, 2017 – Annapolis, MD

Phil Dyke – National Trust, UK

Politics – transcending short-term thinking

Adaptation – promoting adaptation as a plausible solution instead of engineering

Community Engagement –

Evidence – listen to the science and act

Jeff Goodell – Author, *The Water Will Come*

1). Hurricanes are like roulette; sea level rise is live gravity

2). The water will come – the question is how high and how fast

3). The trouble begins long before a city becomes the next Atlantis

4). Billions of dollars will be spent on adaptation and protection. Some of those dollars will be well spent and some will not.

5). Opportunity often comes disguised as catastrophe

Keeping History Above Water

October 29 - 31, 2017 – Annapolis, MD

Dr. William Sweet – NOAA

- Water levels do not rise evenly across the globe
- There is a 25 – 40% greater sea level rise on the east coast of the U.S. than the global average
- coastal areas on the east coast will experience moderate flooding 30, 50 and 170 days per year in the low, intermediate low and intermediate scenarios
- By 2100 the Chesapeake Bay region there would be an increase in sea levels of 4.3 feet under the intermediate scenario and 11.2 feet under the extreme scenario

Keeping History Above Water

October 29 - 31, 2017 – Annapolis, MD

Weather It Together

The City of Annapolis planning initiative, **Weather It Together: Protect Our Historic Seaport**, is an award-winning community-based planning program designed to adapt their historic community to minimize the risks associated with flooding.

Will be issued in December 2017

Designed to be a template for other communities

Keeping History Above Water

October 29 - 31, 2017 – Annapolis, MD

Lisa Craig, Chief of Historic Preservation, City of Annapolis

- Organize Resources
- Research Flood Mitigation Studies
- Research Comprehensive and Master Plans
- Build the Planning Team
- Utilize Necessary Technology – GIS – you have to have GIS at the table!
- Secure the necessary financial/in-kind resources
- Do your Survey Work
- Assess Property Vulnerability
- Determine Community Value
- Engage the Community – Assess public sentiment; survey
- Write the Plan – establish Vision, Goals and Objectives

Keeping History Above Water

October 29 - 31, 2017 – Annapolis, MD

Farnsworth House, along Fox River near Plano, Ill.



<https://farnsworthhouse.org/portfolio-items/hydraulic-system-animation/?portfolioCats=12%2C13%2C26>

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WdTCU8_A7wk&feature=youtu.be

VIRGINIA BEACH WANTS YOU!



TO PRESERVE HISTORY!

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