

**Virginia Beach Historic Preservation Commission**  
General Meeting Minutes – April 5, 2017  
Convention and Visitors Bureau  
Town Bank Building, 2101 Parks Avenue, Suite 500  
Approved as Amended May 3, 2017

**Present:** Bill Gambrell, Chair; James Wood, First Vice Chair; Sharon Felton, Second Vice Chair; Katie Paulson, Secretary; Bernice Pope, Immediate Past President; Jennifer Estes; Harriet Frenzel; Bobbie Gribble; Diane Horsley; Jimmy Jordan; Mac Rawls

**Staff:** Mark Reed; Carolyn Smith

**Council Liaison:** Rosemary Wilson

**Guests:** Captain Richard Wester, Molly Hobbs, Axel Suray

Chair Bill Gambrell called the meeting to order at 5:06 pm.

Ms. Horsley introduced the newest Commission member, Jennifer Estes. Mr. Gambrell introduced the Commission members to Ms. Estes.

Ms. Paulson and Mr. Gambrell presented plaques and certificates to the newest members of the Virginia Beach Historical Register. Ms. Molly Hobbs accepted the plaque and certificate for her home, Briarwood. Mr. Axel Suray accepted the plaque and certificate for the Cavalier Hotel. Captain Richard Wester accepted the plaque and certificate for the Cape Henry Light Station.

After the guests left, Mr. Gambrell asked the Commissioners to review the minutes from the March meeting, which were approved unanimously.

The Commission reviewed the agenda for the public meeting. Mr. Reed provided information on the press release, which recently went out; he will also send direct emails to interested parties. Mr. Reed notified the Commission that he would send slides to the presenters for comments or changes.

Mr. Rawls updated the Commission on the Cape Henry Historic Site committee. He noted that at the direction of the City Manager city staff recently met with Preservation Virginia and the JEB LCFS command about the potential to provide shuttle service to the lighthouse from the resort area during the summer to alleviate traffic and access issues at the 89<sup>th</sup> Street gate into Fort Story. While it is not set in stone, it seems as though all involved parties are supportive of the possibility of the shuttle. Although invited, representatives of the committee were unable to attend.

Mr. Rawls provided updates about other issues at the Cape Henry Historic Site. The potential for the relocation of the Admiral deGrasse statue remains unclear. Ms. Pope talked to Councilwoman Henley, who is worried that the story isn't being told about the statue on base. Mr. Reed referenced a report written by the Bicentennial Commission, which noted that upon

donation, the French government asked for the statue to be placed at that site. Ms. Pope noted that the Commission should research the cost to move the statue, as well as any restoration needs, to provide to Council should the discussion continue. Mr. Rawls also notified the Commission that the TAP grant money was restored with an increase of \$362,800 (for a total of \$1M) for structural work on the Old Cape Henry Lighthouse. The project will go out for bid again. The committee's next meeting will be on April 9<sup>th</sup> at 9 am.

Ms. Felton provided an update on the Historic Districts Committee. The public meeting for the Oceana Historic District was set by DHR and will be on May 11<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm at the Virginia Beach Convention Center. The nomination for the district will go to the State Review Board on June 15<sup>th</sup>. The nomination for the Virginia Beach Courthouse Village and Municipal Center is being finalized and will go to the State Review Board on September 21<sup>st</sup>. The PIF for the Cavalier Shores Historic District was awarded to Dutton and Associates; the target date for the State Review Board is the December 17<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Ms. Felton also updated the Commission on the three proposed Historic and Cultural Districts. Informational overviews were prepared by staff and presented to the Planning Commission on February 8<sup>th</sup> and March 8<sup>th</sup> and to City Council on March 28<sup>th</sup>. The Seatack Life Saving Station and Virginia Beach Coast Guard Station and the C & P Telephone Building districts were recommended for approval by the Planning Commission at the March 8<sup>th</sup> meeting. The deWitt Cottage district was deferred until the April 12<sup>th</sup> Planning Commission meeting due to concerns from the tenant, the Atlantic Wildfowl Heritage Museum; the museum's Board of Directors was concerned about any potential impacts the designation would have on operations. They have since indicated that they have no objections. At the March 28<sup>th</sup> meeting with Council, Councilman Uhrin voiced concerns about the C & P Telephone Building district and the designation's impact on the development potential for the area; staff will meet with him to discuss these concerns.

Mr. Reed presented an update on the Princess Anne Courthouse Committee in Dr. Carwell's absence. The HSR is completed and the final document will be provided in early May. The reconstruction of the façade (east elevation) is underway: the columns are in place and the portico is being installed soon.

Ms. Paulson notified that the Historical Register Review Committee met on March 29<sup>th</sup> to review applications for 216 Cavalier Drive and 1500 Still Harbor Lane. The Committee determined that 216 Cavalier Drive met the criteria and the property was placed on the register. The property at 1500 Still Harbor Lane did not meet the criteria and the application was denied. In addition to the property admitted during the review meeting, several additional National Register listed properties responded to the form letter, the most recent being Shirley Hall, the Cavalier Hotel, and The Cape Henry Light Station (Second Tower). There are currently 67 properties listed on the Virginia Beach Historical Register. Sixteen of those have been added since 2015, when the Commission took on the evaluation role, for a 24% increase in less than two years. Mr. Reed provided an additional update for this committee, as he was contacted by Beacon editor David Schleck in response to a press release from early January about the

program. Mr. Schleck indicated that he is interested in doing a series on some of the lesser known properties recently listed on the Register.

Ms. Felton updated the Commission on the search for new student members. Six nominations had been received as of April 4<sup>th</sup>. The nominations are due by April 15<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Reed and Ms. Felton are refining the interview process.

Mr. Reed addressed the FY17/18 budget under new business. There are two upcoming budget hearings, one on April 18<sup>th</sup> and one on April 27<sup>th</sup> at Bayside High School, with reconciliation on May 2<sup>nd</sup>. Due to advocates in the Planning Department and City Council, as well as the new CLG status, the budget was favorable for preservation initiatives, including monies for a full time historic preservation planner and non-personnel funding, which will help to meet CLG requirements.

Mr. Reed also brought up the Strawberry Festival, which will be held Memorial Day weekend. Ms. Pope will ask Mr. McAtamney for assistance in getting into the brochure. Ms. Prescott spoke to Reverend Whitehurst who has given the Commission permission to use his lawn for their booth again. Last year, the HPC booth was only manned on Saturday, which seemed sufficient, so the Commission will plan to do the same this year. The Commission will see if Mr. Anderton can recruit students to man the booth and Ms. Pope will send an email to the Commission for time slot sign ups.

The next Commission meeting will be the public meeting on April 20 from 6:30 to 8 pm at the Meyera E. Oberndorf Central Library Auditorium.

The next general meeting will be on May 3, 2017 at 5 pm.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:29 pm.