

**Virginia Beach Historic Preservation Commission**  
General Meeting Minutes – June 7, 2017  
Convention and Visitors Bureau  
Town Bank Building, 2101 Parks Avenue, Suite 500  
Approved September 6, 2017

**Present:** Bill Gambrell, Chair; Bernice Pope, Immediate Past Chair; James Wood, First Vice Chair; Katie Paulson, Secretary; Michel Ashe, Dr. Glenn Carwell; Jennifer Estes; Harriet Frenzel; Jimmy Jordan; Sharon Prescott; Mac Rawls

**Student Member:** Lucas Anderton

**Staff:** Mark Reed

**Guests:** Marianne Littel

Chair Bill Gambrell called the meeting to order at 5:00 pm.

Ms. Paulson and Mr. Gambrell presented the newest member of the Virginia Beach Historical Register. Ms. Marianne Littel accepted a plaque and certificate for her property, the Hermitage, at 4200 Hermitage Road.

Mr. Gambrell asked the Commissioners to review the minutes from the May meeting. The minutes were unanimously approved.

Mr. Rawls provided an update on the Cape Henry committee, which hasn't met recently. The committee is waiting for a scheduled meeting with the new base commander. The committee wants to focus on access to the base. Mr. Rawls asked Mr. Reed for an update on the construction at the Old Cape Henry Lighthouse; Mr. Reed noted that the City is waiting for the grant to be finalized. The grant has been awarded, but the agreement has not yet been received. Public Works is ready to start once they are authorized to do so.

Ms. Prescott provided a report for the city-owned buildings committee, which has not met since May 2. They have developed a survey for Commissioners to fill out to help inform the content of the Administrative Directive; Mr. Reed sent the survey and spreadsheet to the Committee for input and comments. Ms. Prescott noted that it would be helpful for Mr. Wood to provide input on sea level rise issues.

Ms. Paulson provided an update on the Historical Register. Two additional National Register properties responded to the form letter and have been added to the register; these properties are the deWitt Cottage and the Seatack Life Saving Station/U.S. Coast Guard Station. Additionally, the review committee made a site visit on June 6<sup>th</sup> to the Jefferson Manor Motel Apartments at 3300 Pacific Avenue and has another scheduled for June 8<sup>th</sup> at 213 53<sup>rd</sup> Street. The committee will schedule a review meeting for later in June.

Ms. Prescott provided a report on the Commission's booth at the Strawberry Festival on May 27<sup>th</sup>. Many people stopped by the booth and many didn't know the Commission existed. Ms. Prescott noted that the Commission needs to send a thank you letter to Reverend Whitehurst for allowing the Commission to use his yard again this year.

Mr. Gambrell updated the Commission on the student member interviews, in Ms. Felton's absence. The executive committee interviewed ten candidates and selected two students to recommend to City Council for appointment to the student member positions.

Mr. Reed updated the Commission on the outcome of the FY18 budget, providing exceptional news: the preservation program received over \$89,000 in funding for the year. The priority for the funds is to meet the requirements of the CLG program; this includes the DHR cost share grant for the archaeology survey, potential for an architectural survey, the development of standards and guidelines for historic districts, an update to the historic resources management plan, and training for the Historical Review Board (HRB). Mr. Reed is taking suggestions for other ideas for the budget outside of the CLG requirements.

Ms. Prescott began a discussion about requirements of the grant recipients by asking if those from last year have published their projects yet. Mr. Reed provided an update on those projects. Ms. Prescott noted that it would be nice to require a presentation to the Commission at the end of the project.

Dr. Carwell noted at this point that the Princess Anne Courthouse committee has not yet received the final HSR from the consultant, noting that they need to produce a final product in order to present to Council. Mr. Reed noted that the final report is close to completion.

Mr. Rawls brought up a time sensitive potential budget item, the historic homes tour, noting that it's good for publicity. Ms. Frenzel noted that the biggest hurdle in organizing the tour is identifying willing homeowners and stressed the importance of involving the local garden clubs. The consensus was that it is likely already too late in the year to plan for this holiday season, but Ms. Frenzel and Ms. Pope will check with Ms. Horsley about identifying potential locations for a tour some time in 2018.

Mr. Reed notified the Commission that the executive committee identified four grant recipients out of the eight applications received. They are as follows:

- Sherry diBari, Seaview Beach and Amusement Park, research paper and web site
- Jorja Jean, Meeting of Washington, Rochambeau, and deGrasse, marker
- Chris Pieczynski, Skirmish at Kemps Landing, research and marker
- Julie Spivey, Camp Ashby and POWs, research and marker

Mr. Reed provided project updates. The deWitt Cottage and the Seatack Life Saving Station Historic and Cultural Districts were both approved by City Council on June 6. The Oceana Historic District nomination public hearing was on May 11<sup>th</sup> and will go to the State Review Board on June 15<sup>th</sup>. The Courthouse Village and Municipal Center Historic District nomination has been submitted for initial review and is on target for the September State Review Board meeting. Dutton and Associates, who will complete the Cavalier Shores PIF, are meeting with the civic league tomorrow (June 8<sup>th</sup>).

For old business, Mr. Reed provided a reformatted version of the public meeting audience input for the Commission's review. Mr. Reed also reminded the Commission of the two historic marker ceremonies that will happen over the summer: on July 7<sup>th</sup> the Col. John Thorowgood Jr. marker will be dedicated at 10 am at the boat launch on Shell Road off of Northampton Boulevard. The dedication for the Cape Henry Railroads marker will be on August 5<sup>th</sup> at Cape Henry; the time has not yet been set.

For new business, Dr. Carwell brought to the attention of the Commission the newspaper article about the archaeological findings at the ramp construction at Newtown Road.

The Commission also discussed the possibility of City Hall being relocated to Town Center. Dr. Carwell sent a letter to the editor against the move, noting that it would produce permanent inefficiencies in city government. The Commission decided that they should take a position and make a recommendation for keeping City Hall in its current and historic location. Mr. Wood made a motion for the HPC to support City Hall remaining at the Municipal Center, which was seconded by Ms. Pope, and unanimously approved. Mr. Wood made a second motion for a letter to be sent addressing the Commission's justifications, from a historical point of view, for City Hall to remain at the Municipal Center; this motion was also seconded by Ms. Pope and was unanimously approved by the Commission. The executive committee will draft the letter and send it to the Commission for approval prior to submitting it.

Mr. Gambrell notified that this meeting is Mr. Anderton's last with the Commission, and thanked him for his service.

Mr. Jordan asked that the Commission consider creating a communications committee and offered to chair, as he has experience with marketing. He noted that the Commission could take advantage of the local TV station in order to publicize our events and projects.

The next general meeting will be on September 6, 2017 at 5 pm.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:19 pm.