

VIRGINIA BEACH HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION
September 5, 2018, 5:00 Parks Avenue, Suite 500
Approved October 3, 2018

Present

Officers: Chair: William Gambrell; Immediate Past Chair: Bernice Pope; First Vice-Chair: James Wood; Second Vice-Chair: Sharon Prescott, Secretary: Bobbie Gribble
Members: Michel Ashe, Glenn Carwell, Jennifer Estes, Sharon Felton, James Jordan, Victoria McQuay, Katie Paulson, Brianna Perez, Mac Rawls
Staff: Mark Reed
Presenters: Debra McClane, Laura Purvis
Public: Steve Alcox, Linda Alcox, Brett Lacklair

Welcome/Introductions/Remarks - Bill Gambrell

Bill Gambrell asked the new Student Members for the 2018/2019 year to introduce themselves. Victoria McQuay is a senior at Green Run High School and Brianna Perez is a senior at Salem High School. Each of the Commission members then provided an introduction and welcomed the new members.

Architectural Survey (Northern Half) Project Update Presentation

Laura Purvis, Cultural Resource Analysts, Inc.; Debra McClane, Architectural Historian

Mr. Gambrell asked Laura Purvis and Debra McClane to make a presentation to the Commission on their architectural survey project. Ms. Purvis provided the primary presentation

Overview – Ms. Purvis noted the purpose of the study was to update records and identify buildings that have come within the 50 year threshold since the last survey was done of the northern half of Virginia Beach in 1992. She said the survey focused on rapid post-WWII growth. They were tasked with identifying 100 individual resources to add to the Virginia Department of Historic Resource's (DHR) Virginia Cultural Resource Inventory System (V-CRIS) database. The project also involved evaluation of the potential eligibility for the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) of 47 neighborhoods as outlined in the Request for Proposals and to identify potential boundaries.

Outcomes – There were 100 resources either newly recorded or updated in V-CRIS including 21 Virginia Beach Historical Register properties not previously surveyed in the system. They evaluated the potential eligibility of 47 neighborhoods as outlined in the project scope and evaluated 2 additional neighborhoods.

Individual Resources – Twelve individual resources are recommended eligible or potentially eligible for listing on the NRHP. These resources include Jefferson Manor Motel Apartments, Temple Emmanuel, Hawkins Restaurant, and Steinhilbers.

Neighborhoods – Ten neighborhoods are recommended eligible or potentially eligible for listing on the NRHP. These are: Aragona Village, Chesapeake Beach, Doyletown, Eureka Park, Kempsville Heights, L&J Gardens, Laurel Manor, Queen City, Seatack and Thoroughgood.

Recommendations – Ms. Purvis said that the report will include some recommendations in addition to those about eligibility for the NRHP. These include:

- Prepare an overarching historic context for post WWII suburbs in VB
- Prepare preliminary information forms for neighborhoods identified within this project
- Nominate additional properties to the VB Landmarks list
- Prepare Multiple Property Documentation forms for thematically-related properties related to transportation or apartment housing
- Create additional Historic Highway Markers at significant sites

Additional Recommendations:

Create an oral history program

Implement an interpretive signage program at local pocket parks or at the entrance to neighborhoods
Create public history and art outreach programs including:

- Murals honoring neighborhoods histories
- Local history internships with high school and college students
- Brochures for self-guided walking tours

Continue survey and documentation of individual resources

Mr. Gambrell asked if they had assigned any prioritization to the neighborhoods for seeking NRHP listing. Debra McClane responded that they had not, but if she was to make a recommendation it would be to prioritize by threat. She said Chesapeake Beach and the African American neighborhoods would seem to have the most imminent threats, primarily from development.

Approval of June 6, 2018 Minutes - Bobbie Gribble

A motion was made by Sharon Prescott to approve the minutes and was seconded by James Jordan. The minutes were approved unanimously.

Committee Reports

Cape Henry Historic Site - Mac Rawls

The Cape Henry Lighthouse Restoration project is finally getting underway to stabilize the base of the 1792 lighthouse. Notice to Proceed was issued on August 6 and the Preconstruction meeting was held on August 22. Construction is to begin after Labor Day and the project will be 180 days to completion.

The new Base Access Shuttle Service is also moving forward. Two new 14 Passenger buses have been ordered and should be in use in early October. Preservation Virginia is hiring drivers and JEB LCFS is working on the details of security.

The Cape Henry Committee is pulling in some of the original members, like the National Park Service, and is bringing in a group that has indicated interest, the Order of Cape Henry 1607. Mr. Rawls noted that OCH 1607 is interested in rehabilitation the old church, St Theresa's Chapel.

Mark Reed said that he has been working with the staff of the JEB LCFS and Preservation Virginia to put together a Public Relations plan. The Media Fact Sheet (see Appendix 1 below) is available on Preservation Virginia and City of Virginia Beach websites. Mr. Reed noted that Channel 10 and Channel 13 have already done stories on the Cape Henry Historic Lighthouse construction as part of their local news coverage.

Princess Anne County Confederate Monument - Jimmy Wood, Sharon Felton

Jimmy Wood said he and Rosemary Wilson met with Mayor Jones about the committee's recommendations. The Mayor said he wants more detail about cost estimates related to PACCSR recommendations. He also wants us to meet with the new Mayor before seeking additional public input

Historic Preservation Month May 2019 - Sharon Prescott

Sharon Prescott noted that the Executive Committee wants to work toward celebrating Historic Preservation Month in May 2019. She noted that they have been putting ideas together in an action plan and it had been sent out to members to solicit additional ideas.

Ms. Prescott said the purpose would be to celebrate Historic Preservation Month by raising awareness about historic preservation in the City of Virginia Beach and to recognize the accomplishments of the Historic Preservation Commission during its first ten years.

She then noted there were several activities that could be done to help to increase public awareness, including:

Promoting at the Public Meeting in April
Issuing a Press Release

Having a Mayoral Proclamation – May 7, 2019

Pints for Preservation activities:

- Partner with local breweries such as:
 - Back Bay Old Commercial Building - often mislabeled as a train station
 - Commonwealth Brewing in old Chesapeake Beach Fire Station
 - Deadline Brewing near Seaview Beach and Amusement Park site
 - Smartmouth in old Seapines Post Office
 - Back Bay Farmhouse Brewery Kempsville Road - William E. Wood house
 - Cavalier Hotel (distillery)
 - Coasters - (around \$.25 each) One-color imprint
 - Pints for Preservation Day or Happy Hour at each partner brewery - Commemorative Cups (around .42 each) - \$5 donation
 - Collaboration brew or individual brewery Preservation Ales
 - Poster - (around \$700 for 100 four-color, glossy, 18 x 24)
 - Donations go to Preservation Virginia/Cape Henry Lighthouse

Web page/Facebook/Twitter

Ms. Prescott said that we are looking for additional ideas. Brianna Perez suggested a history related scavenger hunt. Coordinating a private historic houses tour was also suggested. Jennifer Estes said we could use Clio to identify historic locations. Steve Alcox recommended getting descendants of historical families involved.

Glenn Carwell asked why had we chosen May and said it is a very difficult month with a lot going on. Mark Reed noted that May is National Historic Preservation Month and it was selected to coincide with that. It was suggested that maybe we could start in April and go into May.

It was asked what grades study local or Virginia history in the schools.

Sharon Prescott said we need to form a subcommittee to work on the Historic Preservation Month activities. She said she wants to include Sharon Felton to assist with school involvement. Jimmy Jordan, Jennifer Estes, Victoria McQuay and Brianna Perez volunteered to be on the committee. Steve Alcox and Linda Alcox also volunteered.

FY 2018/19 Project Budget Allocations - Mark Reed

Mark Reed noted that he had put together a proposed budget for the FY2018/19 budget year and had discussed it with the Executive Committee. They wanted the full Commission to look at it for approval. (see Appendix 2 below)

Mr. Reed noted that his initial budget was very heavy in the survey work in order to comply with the CLG agreement. He contacted DHR about waiting on the archaeological assessment for the southern half of the city to potentially take advantage of the 2019 Cost Share Grant Program. DHR agreed that would be acceptable.

He noted that this budget gives us more flexibility to follow up on the architectural survey as quickly as possible after the report is completed. It will also allow us to move ahead with an archaeological assessment at the Carraway House before it is sold.

Mr. Reed also noted that the Research Grant program is absent from the budget. He said that simply represents a timing adjustment to get the program payments at the beginning of the fiscal year and away from the end, as it has been in the first three rounds. He noted that there would be very little change to the program timing and that we are just delaying grant award payments from June to July by doing this.

Glen Carwell made a motion for the budget to be approved as presented. Mac Rawls seconded the motion. It was passed unanimously.

Project Update - Mark Reed

Archaeological Assessment Northern Portion – Mr. Reed said that this project was completed July 13. He passed around a redacted copy of the report, which is all that is made available for the public. He said he still had not been able to do any GIS layer review as the GIS Office is currently short staffed and their offices are in the middle of renovations.

Cavalier Shores National Register Historic District – Mr. Reed said that the Cavalier Shores project is moving forward very nicely. He noted that V-CRIS entries are completed and have been reviewed by DHR staff. He said the draft nomination has been reviewed by him and the civic league president and has been submitted to DHR. He feels that we are on track for this to be on the December 13 State Review Board agenda.

2017 Research Grants - Marker Dedication – Mr. Reed noted that we have three historic marker dedications coming up soon. He will let us know when he has more information on dates and times.

Meeting of Three Commanders – October TBD

Camp Ashby POW Camp - October TBD

Skirmish at Kemp's Landing - Saturday, November 10

Old Business

Mark Reed reported that the Hickman House is now on a foundation and the building stabilizing straps have been removed. He said it is still awaiting the rebuild of the chimneys.

New Business

Mark Reed noted that today is the deadline for signing up for the Virginia Preservation Conference, October 18 and 19 in Danville. He said Bill Gambrell, Mac Rawls and Bernice Pope will be attending.

Commission Committees - Volunteers for committees – Mr. Reed said that Bill Gambrell had asked for this item to be put on the agenda. Since Mr. Gambrell had to leave early, Mr. Reed said he thought the purpose was for committee chairs to look at their committees to see if they still have a viable purpose and then look to make sure you have the necessary membership, both from Commission members and the public. He said he would send out some information to the members on the committees.

Committees:

Cape Henry Historic Site - Mac Rawls

Historic Districts - Sharon Felton

Policies for City-owned Buildings and Sites - Sharon Prescott

Princess Anne County Confederate Statue Roundtable - Sharon Felton, Jimmy Wood

Princess Anne Courthouse - Glenn Carwell

Public Meeting - 2nd Vice Chair (currently Sharon Prescott)

Recognition of Historic Buildings - Katie Paulson

Sea Level Rise - Jimmy Wood

Threatened Buildings and Sites - Jennifer Estes

Historic Preservation Month - May - Sharon Prescott

Mr. Reed showed a few slides of the August 11 event in Newport News where the Nansemond Indian Tribe was chartered in the Sons of the American Revolution. He noted that it was a nice and impressive event. He also said it was unfortunate that Chief Lee Lockamy couldn't attend as he got called into work.

Mr. Reed asked if the Commission would again like the Mayor to proclaim November Native American Month in Virginia Beach. The Commission members agreed that it should be done again in 2018

Adjournment

Next Meeting, Wednesday, October 3, 2018 5:00 p.m., Town Bank Building, Suite 500

APPENDIX 1

Cape Henry Lighthouse Dune Restoration/Base Stabilization Media Fact Sheet

Q: What is the timeline for the dune restoration/base stabilization project?

The project is expected to begin in September 2018 and finish in spring 2019.

Q: What is the cost for the project?

The estimated total project cost is \$1,144,230.

Q: Who is funding the dune restoration/base stabilization project?

The majority of the funding (\$845,000) is from Federal transportation enhancement grants. [Preservation Virginia](#) and the [City of Virginia Beach](#) have partnered to provide the matching grant funds and cover additional project costs.

Q: Who owns the Cape Henry Lighthouse?

Preservation Virginia (formerly known as the Association for the Preservation of Virginia Antiquities) owns the lighthouse.

Q: Who is Preservation Virginia?

Preservation Virginia is a private, non-profit organization and statewide historic preservation leader founded in 1889 that is dedicated to preserving, promoting, and serving as an advocate for Virginia's cultural and architectural history. In 1930, Cape Henry Lighthouse was deeded to Preservation Virginia by the U.S. government to be preserved and opened to the public.

Q: Who has been awarded the construction contract for the dune restoration project?

Conquest USA, Inc.

Q: Who will be managing the construction project?

The City of Virginia Beach Public Works Department is managing the construction project. The firm of Clark Nexsen has provided the design and engineering services and will assist the City with project oversight.

Q: Why is the City of Virginia Beach managing the project?

The Federal grants require the local government to perform project management.

Q: Why does the dune need to be restored and the base stabilized?

The foundation of the Lighthouse, which is approximately 20 feet deep, is constructed from a relatively soft building material, Aquia sandstone. Exposure to strong winds eroded the sand dune and exposed about half of foundation. The wind, and especially wind-driven rain, has damaged the exposed Aquia sandstone material. Restoring the dune to cover the base, as it was when the lighthouse was originally constructed, will prevent further damage.

Q: What will the dune restoration project entail?

The project will entail the installation of interior and exterior retaining walls to hold the top of the dune in place. The interior wall will be installed around the lighthouse approximately six feet out from the base. The area between the exterior and interior walls will be filled with a compacted soil and sand mixture. A concrete slab will be poured to encapsulate the dune. A sand soil mix will also fill the area between the lighthouse base and the interior retaining wall. Sea grasses will be planted there. The slab will be finished with brick pavers. The interior wall will extend approximately 18 inches above the slab to serve as seating. It will be finished with a granite veneer. A metal railing will be installed on top of the exterior retaining wall. Surrounding vegetation will be reduced to enhance visibility from the base area. The stairs into the lighthouse will be replaced. New interpretive signs will also be installed around the pedestrian plaza.

Q: Will any archaeology be done during the project?

Archaeological investigations have been completed in advance of the project by the James River Institute for Archaeology.

Q: Will the public be able to climb the lighthouse during construction?

Not during construction. Preservation Virginia will update their website and social media channels in advance of the tower becoming temporarily unavailable for climbing.

Q: What other activities will be available while the tower is not available for climbing?

Preservation Virginia has launched a walking tour that explores more than 400 years of the historic Cape Henry area surrounding the Lighthouse. Stops include the Cape Henry Memorial National Park, where which commemorates the English settlers first landing near here in 1607 before continuing up the James River to Jamestown, and the new Cape Henry Lighthouse built in 1881 to replace the original tower. The organization will also continue daily Dune Talks at ground level every half hour, which cover STEM-related topics, including weather, ecology, geology and optics.

Q: Outside of the dune restoration project, what other projects are Preservation Virginia fundraising for at Cape Henry Lighthouse?

Preservation Virginia is raising \$525,500 with the support of the Virginia Beach community. Those funds will support new educational programming and preservation maintenance projects including tower repairs and painting, and visitor services facility improvements.

Q: When will the shuttles at Joint Expeditionary Base Fort Story launch?

The shuttles are expected to launch in September 2018.

Q: How will the shuttle service work?

Visitors arriving to Security Gate 8 at Joint Expeditionary Base Little Creek Fort Story without military ID will be directed to park in a designated area at the gate to be transported to Cape Henry Lighthouse. Before boarding the shuttle, visitors will need to show a photo ID and go through a security check. Visitors carrying a military ID will be allowed to drive to the Lighthouse.

Q: Will the shuttles pick visitors up from locations outside of the military base?

No, the shuttles will not be traveling away from the military base to transport people to Cape Henry Lighthouse.

APPENDIX 2

**FY19 City of Virginia Beach Budget
Planning and Community Development
Historic Preservation Program
Approved by Historic Preservation Commission 9.05.2018**

Non-Personnel Operating Budget – 002.13150.650802 **Total -- \$89,158**

Identified Project and Program Expenditures -- Responsive to CLG Agreement

Architectural Survey – Southern Half of City	\$32,500
Planning, Public Participation and related expenses for Historic Resources Management Plan revisions/update	\$12,500
Training for Historic Preservation Commission and Historical Review Board	\$ 1,500
Subtotal	\$46,500

Identified Project and Program Expenditures – Not related to CLG Agreement

Historic Markers and Signage for Historic Districts	\$ 8,000
Advertisement of public meetings	\$ 2,000
Miscellaneous small purchases, such as plaques	\$ 158
Historic Preservation Month Promotions and Activities	\$ 3,000
Archaeological Phase 1 Surveys – Historic and Cultural Districts Carraway House	\$ 7,500
Preliminary Information form for potential National Register Historic Districts	\$22,000
Subtotal	\$42,658
Total	\$89,158

Notes: The Research Grant program is not recommended for funding in FY19 so the program schedule can be adjusted for the grant awards to happen at the beginning of the fiscal year starting in FY20.

The Archaeological Assessment for the southern half of the City is also not recommended to be funded in FY19 to try to take advantage of 2019/2020 state Cost Share grant funds. The CLG coordinator with DHR has been asked if this is acceptable. She has responded that this is acceptable as the project would still fit within their four-year review (2020) for our CLG program. The plan would be to fund this project in FY20 whether or not a grant award is received.