

VIRGINIA BEACH HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes

April 5, 2023, 5:00 p.m.

Planning and Community Development Conference Room, 2875 Sabre Street, Suite 500

Approved May 3, 2023

Members Present: Chair, Sharon Prescott; First Vice-Chair, Christi Lyons; Second Vice-Chair Glenn Carwell; Secretary, Bobbie Gribble; Immediate Past Chair, James Wood

Derek DuBay; Sharon Felton; Becky Livas; Lee Lockamy; Jenna Morris

Members Absent: Harriet Frenzel; Natalie Hubbard; Richard Klobuchar; Timothy Oksman; Mac Rawls

Staff Liaison Present: Mark Reed

Staff Present: Elizabeth Nowak

Council Liaisons Present:

Public Present:

Purpose The purpose of the Commission is to advise the City Council and the Department 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.

Welcome/Introductions/Remarks

The Chair, Sharon Prescott, welcomed the members and called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

Approval of March 1, 2023 Minutes

Ms. Prescott asked the Commission members to review the minutes of the March 1, 2023 meeting and provide any corrections or additions. Jimmy Wood made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Glenn Carwell. The March 1, 2023 minutes were unanimously adopted.

VA250 Committee

Ms. Prescott said a Resolution was adopted by City Council to establish a Virginia Beach VA250 Committee.

Mark Reed then discussed some of the next steps that the Commission and staff need to take.

- The HPC needs to recommend duties of the committee to Council
- The HPC needs to recommend committee membership to Council
- A local logo needs to be developed
- We need to get a portal on VA250.org where we can post local events
- Staff needs to initiate conversations with the Virginia Beach Convention and Visitors Bureau

- Start timeline development for planning and events
- Identify potential Road to Revolution sites, which is a trail of sites throughout Virginia with 2 x 3 foot sign panels - like the Civil War Trails. There will be an annual maintenance fee for these signs.
- Convene the Virginia Beach Committee
- Review grant funding for marketing and events. For big events there is a 50/50 match; however, the locality has to have smaller precursor events two consecutive years prior to this. This would mean an event in the Fall of 2025 (such as the Skirmish at Kemps Landing) would require smaller events in 2023 and 2024.
- Request local funding support
- Traveling exhibition panels and a mobile museum will be available. We need to identify locations and events for these and get our requests submitted.
- Originally planned through 2026, the General Assembly has approved through 2031, which will take us through Yorktown.

Historic Preservation Month

Ms. Prescott said that Historic Preservation Month is approaching and plans for Pints for Preservation are moving forward. The Virginia Beach History Trivia Nights have been set up with the following schedule.

- May 17 - Reaver Beach
- May 22 - Pleasure House
- May 25 - Vibrant Shore

Events begin at 7:00 p.m. Ms. Prescott noted that pint glass koozies have been ordered. She said the glassware order is in process. This year it will be a can style glass.

Ms. Prescott said for members to please bring prizes or cash to the May meeting. The cash will be used to purchase prizes. Bobbie Gribble asked if it could be clarified what type of prizes are appropriate. Ms. Prescott said gift cards for restaurants are the best. Christi Lyons noted that people participate in teams, so a physical item isn't very good because it is hard to share. Mr. Reed said, if possible, try to get gift cards in groups of three since we will have three separate events.

Mr. Reed noted that the Commission has sponsored a proclamation for Historic Preservation Month the last several years. He asked if the Commission wanted to do so again this year. Becky Livas made a motion for the Commission to sponsor a mayoral proclamation for Historic Preservation Month. The motion was seconded by Sharon Felton. It was approved unanimously by the Commission.

Committee Reports

Jenna Morris reported for the Student Leaders Committee. She said that the committee will be presenting a Scavenger Hunt at the Brock Environmental Center using QR codes on Saturday, May 20th from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Ms. Morris said the next meeting where the committee will be working on this will be April 19. She said prizes will be given when they complete the hunt.

Ms. Lyons said the event on May 20 is called History Hunting at Pleasure House Point. She noted that Kris Troch will be doing a poster to go to the schools.

Project Updates

Mark Reed and Elizabeth Nowak provided updates on several projects. For National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) nominations, they reported the following:

Woodhurst Neighborhood Historic District – Mr. Reed said it was listed in the NRHP on March 7. He said a Press Release will go out soon. He noted that he is working on getting an article on Woodhurst in the Coastal Virginia Magazine.

Seatack Historic District – Mr. Reed said he attended the March 13 Seatack Community Civic League meeting to explain the need to postpone the nomination going to the Board of Historic Resources in March due to the mailing address error. He said he is in the process of trying to arrange a site visit by DHR staff to look at the district and areas that are not currently included.

Chesapeake Beach Historic District – Staff is reviewing the VCRIS forms for the district. Mr. Reed said there is no date for submittal of the draft nomination.

Ms. Nowak reported on the Newsome Farm Cemetery nomination. She said the draft nomination is expected to be submitted to her for review in mid-April. A presentation from the consultant to the HPC is currently scheduled for May 3.

Mr. Reed said the Pleasant Ridge School nomination is now under contract. The target date is the December 2023 Board of Historic Resources agenda for the hearing on the nomination.

Mr. Reed and Ms. Nowak also provided updates on Preliminary Information Form (PIF) projects that are underway. Mr. Reed said the Gunning and Hunt Club MPD and the accompanying individual PIF for the Pocahontas Hunt Club have moved forward with drafts submitted to DHR. A presentation by the consultant to the HPC is currently scheduled for June 7.

Beach Carousel Motel – Ms. Nowak reported that the draft PIF for this project has been completed. It will be submitted to DHR soon. A presentation on this PIF is also scheduled for the June 7 HPC meeting.

Mr. Reed and Ms. Nowak also reported on grant applications. Mr. Reed said staff has prepared two grant applications to DHR for FY24.

Ms. Nowak prepared a Certified Local Government (CLG) grant application. She said the proposed project is for updating of up to five NRHP nominations. The projected cost is \$45,000 and the application offers a City match of \$22,500 or 50%. Ms. Nowak noted the following historic properties were identified in the application for updates for their nominations:

- Lynnhaven House (1969)
- Pembroke Manor (1970)
- Keeling House (1973)
- Francis Land House (1975)
- Lifesaving Station/U.S. Coast Guard Station (1979)

The CLG application has been submitted.

Mr. Reed said he has been preparing a State Survey and Planning Cost Share grant proposal and it will be submitted this week. It is for the development of a historical context for post - WWII suburbanization of Princess Anne County and Virginia Beach. The project will also include selective survey of some of the resources. He said the project has been estimated at a cost of \$50,000 and the City is offering to provide a 50% match, which would be a \$25,000 share.

Mr. Reed said the historical context project for post-war suburbanization had initially been identified as an important need during the 2018 *Historic Architectural Resource Survey Update*. It is listed as a high priority in the recently completed *Historic Preservation Plan*.

Mr. Reed discussed the mitigation strategies for adverse effects from the Coastal Virginia Offshore Wind Commercial Project (CVOW). He noted that this is the large wind turbine farm that is planned offshore of Virginia Beach. He said Planning department staff and the HPC chair met with Dominion Energy on March 13 to have a preliminary discussion on potential mitigation strategies. They discussed some of the following potential mitigation actions:

- Support for survey and documentation of either Doyletown or Queen City. Mr. Reed said we requested that both neighborhoods be surveyed.
- Support for planning for the renovation of Cape Henry Lighthouse Visitor Services Center (to include bathrooms). Mr. Reed said we also requested they support an interpretive sign to address modern intrusions in the view shed, such as the wind turbines.
- Support for a National Register of Historic Places nomination for either the Pocahontas Fowling Club or the Princess Anne County Gunning and Hunt Club Multiple Property Document. Mr. Reed said we pointed out to them that an individual property nomination must accompany the MPD. He said we requested that they do both.
- Support for the development of a Sea Level Rise Mitigation Plan.

Mr. Reed said we also requested support for educational and interpretive materials for the Atlantic Wildfowl Heritage Museum; the Surf and Rescue Museum; and the Cape Henry Lighthouse.

Ms. Felton asked about the survey projects proposed for Doyletown and Queen City, since neither are located near the oceanfront. Mr. Reed noted that the draft MOU indicated that Dominion Energy had identified mitigation strategies that would address some of the Historic Preservation Commission's priorities. He said it seemed that they had accessed the Commission's draft historic preservation plan online and had pulled several items from it as potential mitigation actions.

Mr. Reed said he was excited to report that the *Historic Preservation Plan* had been completed and printed copies have been received. Mr. Reed and Ms. Nowak then distributed printed copies to the Commission members in attendance. Commission members took a few minutes to look through the planning document. Many expressed their thoughts that it looks like a great document, and they are looking forward to working to implement it.

Historic Properties Glimpse

Mark Reed said he would report for the historic properties glimpse for Elizabeth since there are no items for the Historical Review Board to consider in April. He showed images of Mount Olive Baptist Church in Seatack and noted that the two photos of rubble in the center are photos he took of what remained of the church on March 13. It has been demolished. He said there were structural issues and the church had been advised that it was not repairable. He said this complicates the Seatack NRHP nomination some since the church was truly an anchor property and the stated period of significance for the historic district began with the date of construction for the church.

Ms. Felton noted that she had been fielding calls from around the city and around the country with people in disbelief that Mount Olive had been demolished.

Old Business

Sharon Prescott asked if there was any old business and there was none.

New Business

Under New Business, Mr. Reed informed the HPC that the Newsome Farm Cemetery cleanup is scheduled on Saturday, April 22. He said he believes the time is 10:00 a.m., but he will alert the Commission as to the time once it is confirmed.

Mr. Reed also provided an update of other planned projects for Newsome Farm Cemetery. He said the ground-penetrating radar project is under contract. He also noted that he is working on moving forward with the Preservation Assessment and Treatment Plan project. He said an RFQ has been distributed and additional funds requested.

Becky Livas said she is curious about the cemetery at Wesleyan Drive and Diamond Springs Road that is behind the Food Lion. Mr. Reed said he would look into it.

Adjournment

Ms. Prescott said the next HPC meeting will be on Wednesday, May 3, 2023, at 5:00 p.m. The meeting was adjourned at 6:30 p.m.