

# **VIRGINIA BEACH HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION**

## **Meeting Minutes**

February 1, 2023, 5:00 p.m.

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

Approved March 1, 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; Natalie Hubbard; Richard Klobuchar; Becky Livas; Jenna Morris; Timothy Oksman; Katie Paulson; Mac Rawls  
Members Absent: Harriet Frenzel; Lee Lockamy  
Staff Liaison Present: Mark Reed  
Council Liaisons Present:

Public Attendees and Guests: Carolyn Guenveur (Lynnhaven Parish Chapter, NSDAR); Sharon Cruthers (Francis Land Chapter, NSDAR); Florence Reese (Adam Thoroughgood Chapter, NSDAR); Jeanette Friedman (Adam Thoroughgood Chapter, NSDAR); Glenn Gilman (Thoroughgood Civic League); Karen Gilman (Thoroughgood Civic League); Sandra C. Bowie (Adam Thoroughgood Chapter, NSDAR); Jorja Jean (Thoroughgood House Advocate); Suzanne Camden (Daughter of American Revolution, NSDAR); Michael Camden (husband); Andy Kincaid (Historic Register Plaque Recipient)

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 everyone in attendance. She read the purpose and mission for the Historic Preservation Commission. Ms. Prescott noted that there are a couple of presentations on the agenda at the beginning of the meeting and said she wanted to get right to those.



### **Certificate and Plaque Presentation**

Mark Reed asked Mr. Andy Kincaid to come to the front of the room. Mr. Reed said that Mr. Kincaid submitted an application to the Virginia Beach Historical Register for his property, known as The Green House, located at 4916 Lauderdale Avenue in the Chesapeake Beach neighborhood. He noted that the review committee visited the property and evaluated it in January. The committee approved the application and listed The Green House in the local register.

Mr. Kincaid accepted the certificate and the plaque presented to him by the Historic Preservation Commission. He said his uncle built the house in 1953 and he had visited it since he was young. He now owns it and lives there. Mr. Kincaid said he intends to preserve it as long as he can. Ms. Prescott thanked Mr. Kincaid for his efforts to preserve the house.

### **Presentation – History Trail**

Ms. Prescott then noted that there is a presentation from the Virginia Beach DAR Chapters. She invited Ms. Florence Reese to address the Commission.

Ms. Reese said she is with the Adam Thoroughgood Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) and noted that other Virginia Beach Chapters have representatives present. She said they are joining with the Thoroughgood Civic League to create a History Trail at the Thoroughgood House. They desire to share history with the public and DAR is dedicated to historic preservation, waterways, and communities.

Ms. Reese noted some of their community activities including:

- Support Samaritan's House, abused women's respite
- Support Vets House and many Veterans' projects
- Schools
  - History awards to Students and Teachers
  - Good Citizen awards, scholarships, and JROTC awards
  - Read to students, serve as tutors, and present programs
- Historic Preservation
  - Preserve old Court Deed and Minute Books
  - Clean grounds and gardens of Thoroughgood House

Ms. Reese said the plan is to develop a trail at the Thoroughgood House. She said it will utilize the undeveloped 4 acres beside Thoroughgood House. They want to create historic trails and plant native plants. As part of this, the DAR chapters propose a permanent tribute for America 250. She said the National Society DAR provides grants for each chapter. They are each able to receive a \$500 grant for America 250. If each chapter applies, they can get \$2,000 and they intend to provide a Revolutionary War marker/plaque for the Historic Trail.



Ms. Reese said the plaque must be placed by May 2025 to qualify for the grant funds. She said they are planning to allow 6 months for approval and 6 to 9 months for the plaque to be manufactured. She said that they need assurance that they can move forward to meet this 15 month advance window. Ms. Reese said that they had met with the Mayor and Vice-Mayor and they said it was the Historic Preservation Commission that could provide the necessary assurances.

Ms. Reese said the whole park does not have to be operational by 2025. Only the portion of the trail where the DAR plaque will be installed needs to be completed.

There was some discussion involving the guests in attendance. Mr. Gilman said the Thoroughgood Civic League has sent a letter to the Mayor supporting the development of the trail. Ms. Jean said the bamboo on the property is a concern. It is invasive and needs to be tackled now.

Sharon Prescott asked what the subject matter would be for the plaque. Ms. Reese said it would be about the Thoroughgoods and their participation in the Patriot's cause. Ms. Jean noted that eight of the Thoroughgood's enslaved persons sought their freedom with George Wise making it all the way to Canada.

Mr. Reed said that the assurances for the project needed to come from the departments of Parks and Recreation and Cultural Affairs. He said the Historic Preservation Commission does not own or control the property. He noted that the state holds an easement on the subject parcel and they would need to be involved. Mr. Reed said he would contact Chad Morris at Parks and Recreation to discuss the plans for the site and the potential for a trail to get underway by 2025.

#### **Approval of January 4, 2023 Minutes**

Ms. Prescott asked the members to review the minutes of the January 4 , 2023 meeting and provide any additions or corrections. Jimmy Wood made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Tim Oksman seconded the motion. There was no discussion. The minutes were approved unanimously.

#### **Committee Reports**

Natalie Hubbard reported for the Student Leaders Committee. She provided a report on the Legislative Advocacy Day that had taken place on January 25. Ms. Hubbard said they met with Senators and Delegates. The students talked about what they are doing this year with the Clio app and working on a History Scavenger Hunt. The students also were introduced in the Senate chamber by Senator DeSteph.

Ms. Hubbard said the highlight of the day was the tour they took of the Governor's Mansion. She said the First Lady, Mrs. Youngkin, gave them a tour of the art that she had placed in the Governor's Mansion. In the evening they attended the Legislation Reception hosted by Preservation Virginia.

Ms. Hubbard said the next meeting of the committee will be on Wednesday, February 8.



## **Project Updates**

Mark Reed provided updates on several projects that are in progress. He noted that we have several National Register nominations in various stages of development.

Mr. Reed said the Woodhurst Neighborhood Historic District nomination has been submitted to the National Park Service (NPS) by the Virginia Department of Historic Resources. National Register listing is pending and typically takes up to 60 days from NPS receipt.

Mr. Reed said the Seatack Historic District nomination will have its Public Hearing on February 13. He noted that is the last step before it goes to the Virginia Board of Historic Resources. He said it is on the March 16 Board of Historic Resources meeting agenda. Mr. Reed asked if the Commission would like to provide a letter of support for the nomination. He said if so, the Commission would need to act by the March 1 meeting.

Mr. Reed said we have some National Register projects that are still in the research phase. He said the Chesapeake Beach Historic District survey will be done in February.

Mr. Reed said that research continues for the Newsome Farm Cemetery nomination. He noted that our request for funding in FY 24 for ground-penetrating radar (GPR) and development of a conservation/preservation plan for Newsome Farm was not funded, but the Planning Department has identified funding in the current year for the GPR. He said he is working on getting a proposal for that work. The GPR project will probably get done in May or June.

Mr. Oksman asked about the Commission's request to City Council that the City acquire the Newsome Farm property. Mr. Reed said that we are holding off on that as we work with the Newsome Farm Civic League and community. He said we have their trust now and we would risk losing it if we pushed forward now for City ownership. He noted that the Civic League board has been invited to meet with the Executive Committee this month as we work to ensure that we are all on the same page with how to move forward with preserving the cemetery.

Mr. Reed said we have some Preliminary Information Form (PIF) projects moving forward. The bigger one is the Gun and Hunt Club MPD PIF and the accompanying Pocahontas Hunt Club PIF. He said he expects the draft for both PIFs to be delivered soon.

Mr. Reed said the Beach Carousel Motel PIF is now under contract and should be proceeding pretty quickly since much of the work has been done with the Oceanfront Resort Motels MPD.

Mr. Reed reported on the archaeology assessment at the Estates Court site. He said the field work was completed on January 13. The report is expected in approximately 30 days. Mr. Reed noted that the results of the investigation are that it does not appear to have been a significant prehistoric site of long-term occupation. He said one of the test units produced a good number of stone flakes, indicating perhaps some tool fabrication on site. He said only a few shards of Native American pottery were found. A piece of a pipe that may be 17<sup>th</sup> century was also uncovered. Mr. Reed noted that he had been able to get two local volunteers to assist the archaeologists on site, one of whom has attended several of the Commission's Public Meetings.



Mr. Reed noted that he is expecting to receive the final draft of the Historic Preservation Plan soon. He said that staff will do a final review before approving.

Mr. Reed then discussed a Section 106 review and consultation project, the Coastal Virginia Offshore Wind Project. He said that Section 106 reviews are done by the Executive Committee and typically are cell antennas getting placed on poles. He said this one involves the offshore wind turbines, and he wants the Commission to be aware of it. Mr. Reed said they have already determined that there will be an adverse visual effect on approximately 25 resources, mostly along the coast. Comments on the draft Memorandum of Agreement are due later this month. He said the draft agreement proposed these two items of interest regarding mitigation for the adverse effects.

- Prior to construction, Dominion Energy will fund fulfillment of mitigation measures that support the initiatives of Virginia Beach Historic Preservation Commission, such as support for cultural resource survey efforts, NRHP nominations, and educational and interpretive materials or programs (These measures will be refined through consultation).
- Dominion Energy will fund fulfillment of mitigation measures that support preservation initiatives for the First Cape Henry Lighthouse, such as restoration, rehabilitation, or maintenance.

Glenn Carwell asked if the Old Coast Guard Station and the deWitt Cottage knew about this. Mr. Reed said he had not discussed it with them, but he would make sure that they are aware.

### **Historic Properties Glimpse**

Elizabeth Nowak provided a preview of agenda items going forward to the Historical Review Board. She said there is only one item for the February agenda. It is in the Courthouse District and is an application for demolition at 2377 Princess Anne Road. It was built in the 1950s and is not in the National Register historic district. Ms. Nowak noted that it is the last remaining residence along that stretch of Princess Anne Road that is expected to be developed as Princess Anne Village soon. The Princess Anne Village development has already received a Certificate of Appropriateness from the HRB and including this property will ensure a consistent look along Princess Anne Road when it is completed.

### **Old Business**

#### **African American Heritage Month Proclamation February 7**

Mr. Reed explained that Councilperson Wooten has also requested a proclamation for African American Heritage month. Ms. Wooten did not want to use the language provided in the proclamation drafted by the Commission, which focuses on L & J Gardens. City Council member requests get preference here, so Ms. Wooten's proclamation will be read on the 7th.

Mr. Reed said what he is trying to work out is to have a resolution read to honor L & J Gardens on February 21. He said he thinks he will be able to arrange that and will let us know.



Mr. Reed also noted that he had put a copy of the congratulatory letter from Senator Mark Warner in the meeting packet. The letter recognizes the Historic Preservation Commission receiving the 2020 Community Preservation award from Preservation Virginia.

### **New Business**

Mr. Reed said he wanted to briefly go over the changes in the Department of Planning Administration that has occurred since Bobby Tajan resigned as director. He noted the following interim appointments

- Kathy Warren - Interim Director
- Carrie Bookholt - Interim Deputy Director (Operations)
- Kaitlen Alcock - Interim Planning Administrator

Mr. Reed said Ms. Alcock is now his immediate supervisor.

### **Historic Preservation Month**

Sharon Prescott said the Executive Committee is looking for additional ideas for activities during Historic Preservation Month. Rick Klobuchar suggested an antiques road show type of event at one of the historic houses. There was some discussion about getting appraisers to work at such an event. Mr. Klobuchar said it could be assigned under the Engagement Committee.

There was also discussion about doing a historic houses tour. That was seen as something that would also need some partnership with the historic houses.

Ms. Prescott thanked the Commission for the ideas and the discussion and said the Executive Committee would discuss them along with other ideas.

### **Adjournment**

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Jimmy Wood. Rick Klobuchar seconded the motion. The Commission voted to adjourn the February meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 6:40 p.m. The next meeting of the Historic Preservation Commission will be on Wednesday, March 1, 2023 at 5:00 p.m.