

**Virginia Beach Historic Preservation Commission**  
**February 4, 2026, 5:00 p.m.**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
Approved March 4, 2026

Department of Planning and Community Development  
Building 3, 2403 Courthouse Drive, Conference Room 110

Attendance

Officers: Chair, Christi Lyons; First Vice-Chair, Glenn Carwell; Second Vice-Chair, T.J. Morgan (arrival 5:15); Secretary, Suzanne Camden

Members: Derrick DuBay, Mary Gentry, Richard Klobuchar, Vincent Lyons, Florence Reese

Student Members: Grace Curran, Greyson Netter

Staff Liaison: Mark Reed

City Staff: Ellie Dauernheim

Public: Beverly Sawyer

**PURPOSE**

The purpose of the Commission is to advise the City Council and the Departments of Planning and Community Development and Cultural Affairs 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/Announcements**

Christi Lyons called the meeting to order at 5:02 p.m. She thanked Suzanne Camden for accepting the role as secretary.

**Approval of January 7, 2026, Minutes**

Ms. Lyons asked the members to review the minutes of the January 7, 2026 meeting. Rick Klobuchar moved to approve the minutes as presented. Glenn Carwell seconded the motion. There was no discussion, and the minutes were unanimously approved.

One guest at the meeting introduced themselves: Beverly Sawyer.

**Committee Reports**

Grace Curran reported for the Student Leaders Committee (SLC). She said the Legislative Advocacy Day is now February 10, rescheduled from January 29 due to conditions in Richmond. Nine students have signed up.

## **Historic Preservation Month**

May is Historic Preservation Month. Ms. Lyons discussed previous events, including Pints for Preservation and Save the Lighthouse. These involved partnering with local breweries and restaurants for activities such as history trivia night and fundraising to preserve the Cape Henry Lighthouse. The purpose is to raise awareness about Historic Preservation Month and the Cape Henry Lighthouse. Ms. Lyons said HPC is exploring options for this year. She asked members to send their ideas to her and Mark Reed.

## **Project and Program Updates**

Mr. Reed provided several project and program updates. He started with the projects that are partially funded with CLG Grants. The FY25 project included 3 NRHP nomination updates. Staff is currently waiting for them to appear on the NPS Pending List. They should then be approved within 45 days of being listed. Mr. Reed said the FY26 project is the NRHP nomination update for the 24th Street Life-Saving Station. Debra McClane is under contract, and the kickoff meeting is scheduled for February 6.

Mr. Reed reviewed the Cost Share Program grant for FY26. The project is for a context study of post-WWII developers, builders and real estate professionals. It also includes neighborhood survey in areas annexed by Norfolk in the 1950s, and development of a historic context for those annexed areas. Virginia Beach is partnering with Norfolk on this project. Mr. Reed said DHR received one proposal from Hanbury Preservation Consulting/William and Mary Center for Archaeological Research (WMCAR) for \$59,000. The DHR is currently working to get them under contract. Virginia Beach's match is \$29,400. A project kickoff meeting is scheduled for February 17.

## **Old Business**

Under Old Business, Mr. Reed discussed the Nimmo Church request to be removed from the Historic and Cultural District. On January 14, the Planning Commission deferred the request until March 11 to hear from people from the church and the HRB. Ms. Lyons said she will speak at the Planning Commission meeting on March 11.

Mr. Reed reviewed progress toward city ownership of the Newsome Farm Cemetery to ensure its maintenance and have it registered in the NRHP. The City Attorney's Office determined that the city is not allowed to condemn property for preservation purposes. Mr. Reed said the City has identified that there are heirs to the property, though their identities remain unknown. He said another option that could be pursued is to obtain partial ownership from the cemetery's heirs if one of them would convey ownership to the City.

Mr. Reed said the Preservation Virginia Legislative Reception has been rescheduled for February 10. He said the Legislative Advocacy Day coincides with the rescheduled legislative reception and there are seats available on the bus. He noted that former HPC member Ian Lichacz has been assisting with arrangements.

## **New Business**

Under New Business, Mr. Reed said the Land Acknowledgement Plaque unveiling ceremony will be held on February 5 at 11:00 a.m. at City Hall. He said this project has been coordinated by the Cultural Affairs Department. An invitation was sent to HPC members who should RSVP if they plan to attend.

Mr. Reed noted that we have Debra McClane under contract to update the book *The 50 Most Historically Significant Houses and Structures in Virginia Beach*. He said we are planning to include 100 historically significant resources in the updated publication. He said Ms. McClane is under contract to prepare text and photos. Mr. Reed said he is establishing a committee to help guide the effort, including a couple of HPC members. If interested, members are encouraged to notify Mr. Reed or Ms. Lyons via email.

## **Announcements**

Mr. Klobuchar announced that the recently reopened Francis Land House held its first Twelfth Night celebration event in a long time.

## **Adjournment**

Ms. Lyons said the next meeting will be held on Thursday, March 4, 2026, at 5:00 p.m. The meeting was adjourned at 5:40 p.m.