

Virginia Beach Historic Preservation Commission

January 7, 2026, 5:00 p.m.

Meeting Minutes

Approved February 4, 2026

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

Attendance

Officers: First Vice-Chair, Glenn Carwell; Second Vice-Chair, T.J. Morgan;
Members: Suzanne Camden, Mary Gentry, Richard Klobuchar, Becky Livas, Vincent
Lyons, Florence Reese
Student Members: Grace Curran
Staff Liaison: Mark Reed
City Staff: Ellie Dauernheim

Public: Luke Olmstead, Brenna Pope

Welcome/Introductions/Remarks/Announcements

Glenn Carwell requested we go around the table to provide introductions to the new member, Mary Gentry, who was appointed to a term through March 31, 2029. Dr. Carwell read the Virginia Beach Historic Preservation Commission's purpose and mission.

Election of 2026 Officers

Dr. Carwell reviewed the slate of officers for 2026 that was presented at the December 3, 2025 meeting.

- Chair – Christi Lyons
- 1st Vice Chair – Glenn Carwell
- 2nd Vice Chair – T.J. Morgan
- Secretary – Suzanne Camden

Florence Reese made a motion to accept the slate as presented. The motion was seconded by Rick Klobuchar. There was no discussion. The minutes were unanimously approved.

Approval of December 3, 2025 Minutes

Dr. Carwell asked the members to review the minutes of the December 3, 2025, meeting. Dr. Klobuchar made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Ms. Reese seconded the motion. There was no discussion. The minutes were unanimously approved.

Two members of the public attending the meeting introduced themselves: Luke Olmstead and Brenna Pope.

Committee Reports

Grace Curran reported for the Student Leaders Committee (SLC). She said the SLC met on December 10 at the Virginia Beach Surf and Rescue Museum. Their next meeting will be on January 14 here in this conference room. Ms. Curran said their next activity will be Legislative Advocacy Day on January 29.

Mark Reed provided the Commission with some details on the upcoming SLC trip to the Capitol to meet with the members of the General Assembly.

Project and Program Updates

Mr. Reed provided several project updates.

He said a letter of support was submitted by the HPC for the three NRHP nomination updates for Holland-de Witt Cottage, Pleasant Hall, and Weblin House. The nomination updates were approved by the Board of Historic Resources and State Review Board on December 11. They will now be forwarded to the National Park Service for their approval.

Mr. Reed said the 2025-2026 Certified Local Government (CLG) grant project is to update the NRHP nomination for the Seatack Life Saving Station/U.S. Coast Guard Station. He noted that Debra McClane, Architectural Historian, has been issued a Purchase Order for this project.

Mr. Reed provided a review of the HPC's initiative to update older NRHP nominations. He said we have completed 7 of 10 projects and have 2 additional updates underway – the Coast Guard Station, which was just mentioned, and Upper Wolfsnare. He noted that Kristin Kirchen of Iron Dog Preservation is working on the latter. Mr. Reed said the one additional NRHP nomination update to initiate is for Old Donation Church. He said staff plans to submit a 2026-2027 CLG grant application for that project.

Mr. Reed briefly discussed the 2025-2026 Cost Share grant project, which is to prepare a historic context for post-World War II developers, builders, and real estate professionals. He said the Locality Agreement for the project has been executed. Mr. Reed said DHR will perform the procurement process, and consultant proposals are due to DHR the second week of January.

Ms. Reese said something needs to be done about bamboo remediation at the Adam Thoroughgood House. She is concerned that the invasive vegetation could damage archaeological resources there. Mr. Reed indicated that the issue falls under Cultural Affairs as the department responsible for that historic property. He said they should contact us if they need assistance from the HPC.

Old Business

Under Old Business, Mr. Reed said the HPC voted at their meeting on December 3 to write a letter to the planning commission recommending denial of Nimmo Church's request for removal of the Historic and Cultural District zoning overlay. The item was presented to the Planning Commission on December 10. There was no representative from Nimmo Church in attendance to speak on the item, so the Planning Commission voted to defer consideration until January 14.

New Business

Under New Business, Ms. Dauernheim provided information on the University of Mary Washington Historic Preservation program. She said Mary Washington's program was the first undergraduate program established in the country. There is a focus on hands-on education, with students focusing on four pillars of historic preservation: museums, planning, archaeology, and cultural resource management.

Adjournment

Dr. Carwell said the next meeting will be on February 4, 2026, at 5:00 p.m.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:45 p.m.