



**Historic Preservation Commission (HPC)
Meeting Minutes
December 12, 2019**

Members Present: Patti McCambridge (Chair), Thomas Sledge (Vice Chair), Venetta Stephens, David Schleeper

Staff/Others Present: Senior Planner Alexis Baker; Assistant City Attorney Meredith Jacobi; Parks Planner Ana Elezovic; and HPC Staff Advisors, Parks Manager Kevin Kaul and Code Compliance Inspector Pam Witham

The official meeting was called to order at 5:10 p.m. by the Chair.

Ms. McCambridge discussed the joint meeting with the Chesapeake Historic and Architectural Review Board on November 14th. A presentation on the Great Bridge Historic Gateway District was given by Planning Director Jaleh Shea and Councilmember Susan Vitale. The resolution for the Chesapeake Planning Commission to consider and make recommendations to identify the Great Bridge Historic Gateway District as an overlay district was approved by City Council on November 19th.

The South Norfolk Residential Rehabilitation Grant Program was discussed. Several suggested amendments were made to the grant program guidelines and applications. HPC members also suggested that the applications for the grant be approved quarterly. They discussed potentially prioritizing certain repairs such as siding, porches, roofs and windows. The grant should remain available to all property owners, including investors. However, owner-occupied homes may be given some priority. The South Norfolk Joint Quarterly meeting will be held in January.

Ms. Stephens made a motion to approve the November 14th meeting minutes with amendments. Mr. Sledge seconded the motion. All members present at the November meeting voted yes by voice vote.

Ms. Stephens made a motion to approve the joint November 14th meeting minutes as written. Mr. Sledged seconded the motion. All members present at the November meeting voted yes by voice vote.

Ms. Jacobi updated the HPC about Chesapeake's legislative package to the General Assembly. Currently, land bank members are not allowed to have direct or indirect business interests according to Virginia Code. Instead of precluding land bank members from having direct or indirect business interests, it is requested that members of a land bank should be able to recuse themselves from a conflict of interest, similar to other boards and commissions. Ms. Jacobi also briefly discussed other legislative bills such as horseback riding being considered agritourism. She also reviewed open space funding sources, particularly related to historic sites and structures.

There were no updates on the historic artifact surveys.

Ms. Baker reviewed applications for street closures and cell towers. There did not appear to be any historic sites within the vicinity of the applications.

Ms. McCambridge talked about the Southeastern Cooperative Educations Programs (SECEP) building, also known as the Great Bridge School, located at 369 S. Battlefield Blvd. Ms. Baker previously mentioned to Ms. McCambridge that City Council had discussed the possibility of having the building listed on the National Historic Register. The Virginia Cultural Resource Information System (VCRIS) database from the Virginia Department of Historic Resources shows the site as eligible for listing in the National Register. There was a 1908 building onsite that was demolished. However, the main building has a 1924 dated cornerstone and two different wings built in 1947 and 1961. The School is an example of the Colonial Revival style of architecture popular for institutional buildings during the 1920s. The architects for the two newest wings were from known architectural firms. Ms. McCambridge suggested that the Great Bridge School should have brown signs on the property with information about the architects. A sign with a picture of the old 1908 school could also be rendered. The school might be a good location for a museum or storage for historic items. Ms. Baker mentioned that the school is currently secured so it would not be ideal for displays opened to the public.

Mr. Sledge presented his research on churches. He noted that Oak Grove Church, in particular, is celebrating its 250th anniversary.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:07 pm.