



**Historic Preservation Commission (HPC)  
Meeting Minutes  
March 12, 2020**

Members Present: Patti McCambridge (Chair), Venetta Stephens, Melissa Kemple, and Edd Conner.

Staff/Others Present: Guest Frank Lilley; Senior Planner Alexis Baker; Assistant City Attorney Meredith Jacobi; Parks Planner Ana Elezovic; and HPC Staff Advisor, Code Compliance Inspector Pam Witham.

The official meeting was called to order at 5:05 p.m. by the Chair.

The approval of the February 13, 2020 minutes were postponed as a quorum of members were not present from that meeting.

Mr. Lilley made a presentation to the HPC regarding replacing asphalt streets with concrete streets in the South Norfolk Local Historic District. His focus was on sewer renewal projects along Decatur and Guerriere Streets. He would like to see the asphalt streets replaced with concrete streets for point repairs or anything that would require the street to be torn up. He suggested using tax increment financing to fund the project. Mayor West has ridden through South Norfolk with Mr. Lilley and suggested that he speak to other City Council Members. Mr. Lilley also mentioned potentially dividing the road replacements in the South Norfolk Local Historic District into four phases rather than replacing the roads all at once.

After Mr. Lilley finished his presentation and excused himself from the meeting, the HPC discussed his presentation. While concrete may be more historic, there was a question if concrete really holds up to current modes of transportation. The HPC would rather focus on consistency and uniformity in the local historic district and have no noticeable changes in materials for sidewalks and roads. The HPC also felt that a focus on historic sidewalks was important. Ms. McCambridge asked Ms. Jacobi if it was within HPC's purview to suggest a City policy regarding streets and sidewalks in the local historic district. Ms. Jacobi replied that due to how structures are defined in the Zoning Ordinance, which includes sidewalks and roads, the HPC could develop architectural guidelines for structures to be recommended to City Council for inclusion in the architectural reviews standards for the historic and cultural preservation district. Mr. Conner and Ms. McCambridge will take pictures of the South Norfolk Local Historic District to see what types of materials are used for the sidewalks and streets.

A discussion on a potential local historical register for Chesapeake followed. Mr. Conner suggested the inclusion of areas in Centerville. Ms. McCambridge will work with Mr. Rich Wethington, the former chair of the Chesapeake Historic and Architectural Review Board, to

identify potential places in South Norfolk for inclusion on the register. Ms. Jacobi will send information to Ms. McCambridge on the tax abatement programs in the City of Chesapeake and Abingdon. Ms. McCambridge is interested in extending a tax abatement program to properties listed on a local historical register.

Ms. McCambridge spoke to DeSigns about manufacturing medallions for properties listed on a potential local historical register. These signs could be created with cast aluminum. Ms. McCambridge will get a cost estimate from DeSigns once a sign design is created. The medallions could include a number that correlates to the Chesapeake Historical Register.

Ms. Stephens is working on the historic artifact inventory. She will create a summary for the items that she has uncovered.

Mr. Conner and Ms. Kemple would like to see a railing and a sign showing the original location for the Great Bridge Bridge. Ms. McCambridge suggested to Ms. Conner that he could put together a package for the sign similar to what Mr. Schleeper did for the Bear Quarters sign.

Ms. Baker announced to the HPC that her last day with the City is April 10<sup>th</sup>. She will begin work in Suffolk on April 16<sup>th</sup>.

Ms. McCambridge presented a U.S. House of Representatives Bill, sponsored by Donald McEachin, to protect the Dismal Swamp by designating it as a National Heritage Site.

Dr. Hite, who oversees the planetarium programs, can pinpoint the night sky during the Battle of Great Bridge. He would like to invite the HPC to assist with this future program.

The Norfolk Coin and Relic Club would like to have another event, like last year, to celebrate National Preservation Month in May.

Several of the HPC photographs are on display at the South Norfolk Memorial Library.

Mr. Conner mentioned that the architect position is still open on the HPC. Mr. Conner has a friend who works with an architect as a licensed designer and is interested in the architect position on the HPC. Mr. Conner would like to see the criteria changes to allow for a licensed designer to serve on the HPC. Ms. McCambridge recommended that Mr. Conner have his friend apply for this position and see if City Council will allow him to fill the architect position.

**The meeting was adjourned at 6:20pm.**