



Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) Meeting Minutes February 8, 2018

Members Present: Patricia McCambridge (Chair), Venetta Stephens, David Schleeper, Melissa Kemple, Bruce Grulke, and Thomas Sledge

Staff/Others Present: Great Bridge Battlefield and Waterways History Foundation and Cornland School Foundation member Dr. Sam Leary, Historic and Architectural Review Board Chair Rich Wethington, Senior Planner Alexis Baker and Assistant City Attorney Meredith Jacobi; and HPC Staff Advisors, Park Manager Kevin Kaul and Public Works Project Manager Wayne Mortimer

The official meeting was called to order at 5:13 p.m. by the Chair.

Mr. Schleeper made a motion to approve the January 11, 2018 minutes as written. Mr. Sledge seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

Several revisions were made to the agenda to include moving the Cherry Hilliard House agenda item to next month. Dr. Leary will speak on *The Liberty* model schooner located in the Wallace Room as well research into a Civil War fort near Jolliff Road.

The Liberty was a schooner purchased by Patrick Henry in 1775, shortly after the *Battle of Great Bridge*. It was the first of the Virginia Navy and was fitted with swivel guns. The replica was built by Robert Guess and measures 44 inches in length and stands 48 inches high. It will be housed in the Wallace Room until the Great Bridge Battlefield and Waterways Museum is built.

An earthen fort was discovered in Western Branch near Jolliff Road within the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) right-of-way. The City is working on a memorandum of understanding with VDOT to preserve the fort. It is not known the exact age of the fort. It may have been used by the Confederacy during the Civil War and may also date as far back as the War of 1812 due to the possibility of Hessian graves nearby.

The Cornland School Foundation have been discussing the possibility of moving the historic one-room African-American school house onto City property. It has been stabilized with new timbers and should be able to withstand being moved. Parks, Recreation and Tourism requested a letter from the Cornland School Foundation and

the HPC for suggestions on where to locate the Cornland School on City property. Dr. Leary mentioned that the Cornland School Foundation could potentially bring in up to \$200,000 from the banner program, which could help to move the building.

Outreach and educational opportunities were discussed by HPC. Ms. McCambridge will continue to update the Facebook page. Staff mentioned that the Planning Department has several resources on the Planning Department webpage with historic information. Ms. McCambridge and Mr. Sledge will work with the Chesapeake City Schools social studies programs to promote the Clio historic mobile phone application. Ms. Kemple will discuss the Clio application with the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) and the Children of the American Revolution (CAR) groups. Frederick Douglass re-enactor, Nathan Richardson, will present on May 20th from 2 to 4pm at the Central Library. The HPC would like to have a proclamation for preservation month. Ms. McCambridge also spoke about expanding their framed photograph collection to include other sites such as graveyards, churches, bridges, and historic barns.

The Historic Preservation Commission reviewed a new metal street sign mock-up for the South Norfolk Local Historic District. The sign will also be shown to the South Norfolk Civic League.

Ms. Stephens made a motion to move forward with the new street signs in the South Norfolk Local Historic District. She would also like the commonly used abbreviations for local roads used, such as ave. for avenue, on the new street signs. Mr. Schleeper seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

Ms. McCambridge spoke to Planning Director Jaleh Shea regarding a Chesapeake Historic Register and a citywide historic tax exemption program. Ms. Shea suggest May would be the best time to work with City Council to potentially create a program. Mr. Grulke could create an example of a medallion to denote structures included on a potential local register.

Ms. Jacobi gave the legal update. City Council is suggesting a possible amendment to the ordinance to expand the members on the HPC to include a member from the Cornland School Foundation and the Great Bridge Battlefield and Waterways History Foundation. The HPC discussed how there were over 18 different historic groups in Chesapeake. The criteria to expand membership could be less specific with two members from a historic group or nonprofit.

Mr. Grulke made a motion not to recommend expanding membership to include a member from the Great Bridge Battlefield and Waterways History Foundation and the Cornland School Foundation. Mr. Schleeper seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

Council member Roland Davis has requested from citizens a list of items needed to move Chesapeake forward. These ideas can be emailed to him.

Mr. Mortimer gave an update on the Great Bridge Battlefield and Waterways History Foundation museum. The construction is moving forward and the walls are being framed out.

With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 7:05 PM.