



COUNTY OF PRINCE WILLIAM

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HISTORICAL COMMISSION

B R I E F

**McCoart Administration Building
Occoquan Conference Room**

**September 12, 2006
Regular Meeting**

In Attendance

Chairman Duley, Commissioners R. Anderson, S. Anderson, Brown, Burgess, Chock, Cumins, Hawkins, Jones, Smith, Stickley, Swavely, Turner, Yankey

Justin Patton – County Archaeologist; Heather Hembrey - Public Works Liaison; Don Wilson – Library Liaison; Toni Brzyski - Commission Secretary

Rita Koman, Linda Wright, Dorothea Alexander, Bill Olson, Dennis Vanderlaske – Citizens/Guests

7:32 PM

Citizens' Time

Education – Rita Koman talked about her previous projects and said she is interested in writing a history of Prince William County for both general information and use in the schools.

Buckland – Linda Wright of the Buckland Preservation Society provided an update on Buckland. Funds from a second Save America's Treasures Grant and a T-21 Grant were used to acquire a lot in the historic district and a lot in the proposed expanded historic district.

The Society is concerned about the sale of the Buckland Farm Market property and Ms. Wright requested a letter of support from the Historical Commission regarding the Society's efforts.

Thank You – Bill Olson thanked the Commission for the marker for the Washington/Rochambeau wagon route.

Additionally, Mr. Olson extended an invitation to members from Historic Prince William to attend an event they are hosting at La Grange Winery on October 15 from 3-5.

Williams Cemetery – Dorothea Alexander explained that there is a board fence around this cemetery on Cardinal Drive which doesn't seem appropriate and she asked the Commission for assistance in having the fence removed.



RES 06-035 **Approve August 8, 2006 Meeting Brief and Resolutions as Presented - APPROVED - MOTION CARRIED** [VOTING RECORD: Motion Hawkins, Swavely; Approved by acclamation; Abstain Yankey; Absent from vote None; Absent from meeting Cunard, MacDonald]

Chairman's Time - Cemetery

Chairman Duley reported that Eagle Scout Adam Stokes is moving forward with his project to clean up the cemetery near Potomac Hospital and will provide an update on his work in the near future.

Past to Preserve – Chairman Duley reported she received a request for the Commission to reprint “Prince William: A Past to Preserve” in order to correct an error. No action was taken on the request.

Vice Chairman's Time - No report.

Staff Time – Planning

Update – Justin Patton, County Archaeologist, provided an overview of his projects including reviewing 100+ cases and creating a GIS map layer that graphically shows where archaeology projects are located and working with the summer intern to enter the information into the mapping system.

Phase III Archaeology Reports - Mr. Patton reported that substantial Phase III reports are available for review on Harbor Station and Eagle's Point West.

Barns of Prince William County – Mr. Patton reported that Bob Bainbridge has compiled a table of the slides, of barns photographed by Lucy and Steve Phinney, which is included on pages 17-23 of the agenda package. Converting these slides to digital images would make them more readily available for viewing and presentations.

Williams Cemetery/Cardinal Drive – Mr. Patton reported the site plan for the area where this cemetery is located was approved prior to the adoption of the current cemetery ordinance. Staff will check on whether any action can be taken regarding the fencing of the cemetery.

Washington/Rochambeau Survey and Planning Grant – Please see the grant application information included on pages 27 thru 35 of the agenda package.

Bristoe Station Battlefield Monopole – Mr. Patton provided an update on this project. The location of the monopole has been changed and the height has been reduced, however, the monopole continues to adversely impact the site.

**Staff Time –
Public Works**

General – Heather Hembrey provided copies of the current newsletter and a status report on the various historic properties including:

Funding – The Preserve America Grant is being used to formulate standards for exterior wayside interpretive signs at the historic sites.

Kings Highway – The Marine Corps Heritage Museum requested assistance from the Historic Preservation Division of the County and the Prince William County Park Authority with signs about the Kings Highway on the Marine Corps site.

Brentsville - The house and property next to the Union Church at Brentsville have been purchased by the County and the house will be used as a temporary visitor center which should be available for the October 14th Open House.

Research – The police are providing forensic research assistance including blood analysis, diving and metallurgy work at various locations.

Donation – Ms. Hembrey reported that Steven Phinney donated Lucy Phinney’s research papers from her “Yesterday’s Schools” project to the County. Ms. Hembrey is documenting the papers which will later be available to the public.

**Staff Time -
Libraries**

Events – Don Wilson reported he sent out an email with information on upcoming activities and programs.

**Budget and
Audit Committee**

Budget Update – Copies of the Historical Commission’s FY-07 Budget – Month 2 thru August 31, 2007, were distributed and Commissioner Smith noted there is over \$14,000 in the use or lose category.

**Publications
Committee**

Book Sales Report – Commissioner Burgess reported 14 publications were sold in August.

“A History of Prince William County” – Commissioner Burgess has the final draft for review.

“The Curtis Collection” – Committee members recommended reprinting the document as an 8½ x 11 publication. The table of contents and index will need to be redone. Members should provide staff with any edits they consider necessary.

**Publications
Committee
(continued)**

Beverly Mill Thesis – The author has agreed to make edits requested by the committee members and Ellen Percy Miller will provide a postscript regarding the current condition of the site. Commissioner Burgess provided a draft of a preface for the publication as well as some additional photographs of the area.

Historical Marker Guides – The supply of guides is running low. The Committee recommends reprinting without updating. Staff to get a price to reprint.

**Historic
Properties**

La Grange – Chairman Duley passed around an article from the Potomac News about the La Grange Winery.

Morris Farm House – Commissioner Yankey mentioned work is being done on Morris Farm House and it appears the property may have been sold.

Land Development Application Reviews

RES 06-036

Phase I Archeological Study Recommendations – **APPROVED – MOTION CARRIED** [VOTING RECORD: Motion Yankey, Smith; Approved by acclamation; Absent from vote None; Absent from meeting Cunard, MacDonald]

Brentsville Trust

Dedication – Chairman Duley reported Saturday, May 5, 2007, has been selected as the date for the dedication ceremony at Brentsville.

Open House – Chairman Duley reported an Open House will be held at the Brentsville site on Saturday, October 14, 2006.

Tours – Commissioner S. Anderson commented that the site is open on week-ends for tours and when she visited she was impressed with the collection of scrapbooks put together by local resident, Morgan Breeden.

Old Business

Spring Tour – Commissioner Smith reported the Historical Commission tour will be on April 21 or April 28, 2007.

New Business

Brief discussion of request from Linda Wright for letter of support for Buckland Preservation Society activities.

RES 06-037

To send a letter to Supervisor Covington expressing the Historical Commission's support of the Buckland Preservation Society's efforts to encourage the Buckland Farm Market property to remain as compatible as possible with the neighboring historic areas as the Buckland Farm Market property is positioned within the Buckland Mills Battlefield and in close proximity to the National Register listed Buckland Historic District. - APPROVED – MOTION CARRIED

[VOTING RECORD: Motion Burgess, Cumins; Approved by acclamation; Absent from vote None; Absent from meeting Cunard, MacDonald]

RES 06-038

Brief discussion about the Barns of Prince William County project.
To allocate funds to convert 170 slides, from the Barns of Prince William County collection photographed by Lucy and Steven Phinney, to digital images at a cost not to exceed \$ \$400 –

APPROVED – MOTION CARRIED [VOTING RECORD: Motion S. Anderson, Burgess; Approved by acclamation; Absent from vote None; Absent from meeting Cunard, MacDonald]

Other Business

Meeting Locations – Commissioner Brown remarked on the positive aspects of meeting at historic settings, such as Brentsville, and suggested the Commission meet at other historic locations.

Evergreen - Chairman Duley asked about an update on the request from Dave Prokop, Chairman, Manor House Preservation, Inc., for funds from the Commission for the Evergreen Plantation Manor House project.

Adjournment

9:08 PM