



COUNTY OF PRINCE WILLIAM

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HISTORICAL COMMISSION

B R I E F

Development Services Building
Conference Rooms 202 A & B

April 8, 2008
Regular Meeting

In Attendance

Chairman Duley, Commissioners Anderson, Burgess, Culp, Cunard, Frank, MacDonald, Olson, Smith, Stickley, Swavely, Van Derlaske, Yankey

John Lassiter – Staff Liaison; Justin Patton – County Archaeologist; Heather Hembrey - Public Works Liaison; Toni Brzyski - Commission Secretary

7:32 PM

Citizens' Time

No citizens spoke.

RES 08-016

Approve March 11, 2008 Meeting Brief and Resolutions as Presented
- APPROVED - MOTION CARRIED [VOTING RECORD: Motion Burgess, Cunard; Approved by acclamation; Absent from vote None; Abstain Yankey; Absent from meeting Hawkins]

Chairman's Time

Staffing – Chairman Duley welcomed the new staff liaison for the Historical Commission, John Lassiter.

Beverly Mill – Ms. Duley commented favorably on the work being done on the post office building at the mill site.

Vice Chairman's Time

Acknowledgements – Vice Chairman Swavely reported that he'd heard about an individual who's taking care of some of the local cemeteries and he'd like a way to thank this person and others for their efforts.

Cemeteries - Commissioner Cunard requested acknowledgement for an Eagle Scout for work done at a cemetery and provided details to John Lassiter.

Chairman Duley requested Justin Patton investigate the possible existence of graves near the intersection of Logmill and Mountain Roads.

Concern was expressed regarding the condition of the Syncox/King cemetery in Montclair that has erosion problems.

Staff Time – Planning

Staffing – Justin Patton introduced and welcomed new staff liaison; John Lassiter who said he looks forward to working with the Commission.

Manassas Battlefield View Shed Project – Mr. Patton provided an update on this federally grant funded project to develop a view shed preservation plan and noted that the steering committee has selected views and public meetings will be held.

**Staff Time –
Public Works**

Events – Heather Hembrey reported the county historic sites will be open on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays beginning May 2nd.

Ben Lomond – Ms. Hembrey reported the construction date for the slave quarters, currently under repair, has been determined to be 1834/1835.

Brentsville Courthouse Historic Centre – Ms. Hembrey reported the work on the cabin is complete and distributed flyers about events scheduled at the site April 19-20, 2008.

Rippon Lodge - Ms. Hembrey reported there are lots of new things to see on both the first and second floors of the lodge and many programs have been scheduled at the site.

**Staff Time –
Libraries**

Activities – Don Wilson recently distributed an email with information on upcoming activities and programs.

Old Business

Historic Building Plaques – Members discussed whether or not to purchase castings of the new Historical Commission building plaque.

RES 08-017

Authorize funding to purchase the prototype and 10 additional castings of the new Historical Commission plaque at a cost not to exceed \$1250 - APPROVED – MOTION CARRIED [VOTING RECORD: Motion Cunard, Swavely; Approved by acclamation; Absent from vote None; Absent from meeting Hawkins]

Membership Update – To date Commissioners Anderson and Yankey have not been reappointed and the Brentsville and Gainesville districts each have a vacancy.

Chairman Duley suggested members review the documents they received from the County regarding their appointment to the Historical Commission. Additionally, Ms. Duley advised that it's time to review and update the Commission's bylaws and requested a copy of the bylaws be included in the May agenda package.

**Old Business
(continued)**

Toni Brzyski will work on ordering business cards and name badges for Commission members.

Prince William Historic Preservation Foundation – Commissioner Anderson reiterated her suggestion that the Historical Commission become a member of the Foundation and support fundraising for Historic Preservation programs.

RES 08-018

Authorize funding for the Historical Commission to become a member of the Prince William Historic Preservation Foundation at the \$1000 level - APPROVED – MOTION CARRIED [VOTING RECORD: Motion Anderson, Smith; Approved by acclamation; Absent from vote None; Absent from meeting Hawkins]

Budget and Audit Committee

Budget Update – Copies of the Historical Commission’s FY-08 Budget – Month 9 thru March 31, 2008, were distributed and Commissioner Smith noted there is over \$7,000 in the use or lose category.

Publications Committee

Marker Guide & Haymarket Booklet – Staff to complete and get pricing from the print shop.

Request – Commissioner Smith requested 50 copies of *Historic Dumfries, VA.* and asked staff about reprinting the booklet.

Disbursements Committee

Weems-Botts Museum – Commissioner Stickley reported the Museum purchased the deed but it hasn’t been authenticated and there is no preservation plan for it. Mr. Stickley will provide an updated list of requests for funding for the May meeting.

Legislative Committee

Update – Commissioner Cunard suggesting inviting Dana Fenton to a Commission meeting so Mr. Fenton could provide advice on what actions the Commission should take moving forward.

Nominating Committee

Update – Commissioner Smith reported the members of the Commission have been surveyed and the slate of officers is as follows for elections at the May meeting. (Chairman – Betty Duley; Vice Chairman – Jim Burgess and Dave Swavely)

Historic Properties

Presentation – John Lassiter provided a presentation on suggested additions to the County Registered Historic Sites list. After the properties are researched a staff report will go to the Planning Commission and the Board of County Supervisors.

Commissioner Smith requested copies of the presentation be distributed to members at the next meeting.

Land Development Application Reviews

RES 08-019 **Phase I Archeological Study Recommendations** – **APPROVED – MOTION CARRIED** [VOTING RECORD: Motion Cunard, Yankey; Approved by acclamation; Absent from vote None; Absent from meeting Hawkins]

Brentsville Trust **Update** – Commissioner Cunard reported the Trust met in March and is scheduled to meet tomorrow, April 9, 2008. There was no news about the Friends at the March meeting. Ms. Cunard suggested the cabin at the site is well worth a visit.

Hatcher’s Memorial Baptist Church Update – Ms. Cunard reported the church has abandoned their expansion plans at this location. The new plan is to move out of Brentsville. Services will be held temporarily at Brentsville High School. It seems likely the church property will be sold.

New Business **Publications** – Commissioner Anderson asked staff to find out if the Commission gave copies of “Yesterday’s Schools” to PWC schools.

Tour – Commissioner Smith suggested it might be time to plan a tour of the western end of the county.

Announcements **All-American Road Program/Journey Through Hallowed Ground** – Commissioner Van Derlaske reported he attended a meeting where the process for these was discussed and he commented on how difficult the standard is to meet for inclusion in these programs.

FYI – Commissioner Cunard passed around a book published by the CVB entitled *Prince William County Then and Now*. The book is available for purchase in local stores, in the Tourism Visitor Centers at both ends of the County and on amazon.com.

Ms. Cunard recommended members visit Ron Turner’s website for information on cemeteries and on trials held at Brentsville.

Research – Commissioner Van Derlaske described a new system using terahertz light to find images under plaster such as frescos and graffiti.

Investigation – Ms. Cunard provided details about an investigation of possible paranormal activity at Williams Ordinary.

Manassas National Battlefield Park – Commissioner Burgess reported there is a new superintendent at the park, Ed Clark.

Adjournment

9:42 PM