

**FAUQUIER COUNTY
ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW BOARD**

Meeting Minutes

May 3, 2017

4:00 p.m.

Warren Green Building, 2nd Floor Meeting Room
10 Hotel Street, Warrenton

Attendance:

Mary Root, Chair (Citizen-at-Large)
Reta Rodgers (Cedar Run District Representative)
Jack LaMonica (Marshall District Representative)
Virginia Gerrish (Center District Representative)
Bryan Jacobs (Lee District Representative)
John Toler (Scott District Representative)

Absent:

Bob Lee (Planning Commission Representative)

Staff:

Wendy Wheatcraft, Preservation Planner
Maureen Williamson, Staff

Guests:

Tom Ford
Suzanne Obetz
Roland Word

1. Ms. Root called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.
2. The April 5, 2017 meeting minutes were reviewed. Ms. Root made a motion to approve the minutes, as corrected. Ms. Rodgers seconded the motion. The motion carried 6 – 0.
3. Ongoing Business
 - May Preservation Month Event: “History of Virginia Bridges,” Nathan Holth
Saturday, May 20 at 2:00 p.m., Orlean Volunteer Fire Station, 6939 Leeds Manor Road

Ms. Wheatcraft confirmed that the May Preservation Month event will be held at the Orlean Volunteer Fire Station. She also confirmed that the event is set for Saturday, May 20 at 2:00 p.m. with Nathan Holth as the guest speaker. As the Piedmont Environmental Council (PEC) is co-sponsoring the event, she said that Ms. Bolthouse of PEC will also have a short presentation. Ms. Wheatcraft will say a few introductory words and introduce the speakers. She estimated that Mr. Holth will speak for about forty minutes.

To prepare for the May event, Ms. Wheatcraft told the ARB that Mr. Holth inquired about the two Lutten bridges that are in Fauquier County, both are concrete arch bridges constructed around 1919 along Crenshaw Road close to Atoka.

Ms. Root suggested developing a handout for the event that would list the different historic bridges found in the County. Ms. Root offered her assistance.

Ms. Wheatcraft developed an event flyer, which she shared with the ARB. With regard to advertising the event, Ms. Wheatcraft said that an event posting was made on the Community Development Facebook page, and it quickly received considerable attention reaching an audience of 1,700. 34 responded with either “I’m Interested” or “I’m going to go.” This is the first time that social media has been used to advertise a County public preservation event. Ms. Bolthouse will be emailing the flyer using the PEC membership list.

Refreshments were discussed and Ms. Wheatcraft said that the ARB would provide bottled water and cookies. Ms. Gerrish offered to make brownies or cookies for the event and Ms. Wheatcraft said she appreciated her offer.

- Revision of Fauquier County Preservation Plan – Table of Contents, etc.

Ms. Root said that she is in the process of collecting the individual paragraphs ARB members wrote on the hamlets and smaller communities. She said that the research has provided details in that Broad Run is in a rural historic district and therefore she feels that another category within Appendix B, Historic Settlements, Hamlets, and Villages, may be needed to cover hamlets that are within a rural historic district. Ms. Wheatcraft presented a revised table of contents for the ARB to review.

Ms. Wheatcraft talked about providing a summary historic context within the body of the document (Section 2) in addition to the more comprehensive context (Appendix A), saying that the summary does not need to be extensive, but there has to be some resource context provided in the text. She said that she may need the input of the ARB to identify what are the actual historic highlights in order to follow a simple timeline. The ARB discussed the following highlights: the importance of the railroad, advances in farming, including tobacco, grain, and wheat, S. McCormick’s plow, mechanization of farming, etc., the influence of waves of immigrants to the County, gold mining, and rural electrification.

Ms. Wheatcraft asked the ARB for their opinion of the placement of an influential historic fact every 2-3 pages of the document when the fact pertained to the text.

Ms. Wheatcraft asked the ARB if there was anything missing from the table of contents. Ms. Root said that it needed something that speaks to the need for County departments to communicate with each other particularly when caring for County-owned historic properties and development of County land. She noted she thought this information could be best inserted into Section 3: Key Issues, Goals, Anticipated Outcomes, and Actions. Ms. Wheatcraft said that currently Goal 5 within Chapter 2 of the Comprehensive Plan speaks about coordination between County departments. However, she said that a policy could be initiated stating a basic procedure for the maintenance of historic County-owned properties. She said that if there is a policy, there would be a justification for changing an existing process.

Ms. Wheatcraft said that for the next meeting of the ARB in June she will prepare text for review.

4. New Business

- Meeks Interview on NPR, May 1

Ms. Wheatcraft played a brief audio interview with Stephanie Meeks, CEO of the National Trust for Historic Preservation. The interview aired on National Public Radio's "Conversations from the Corner Office" during the show *Marketplace* on May 1, 2017. During the interview, Ms. Meeks talked about why our economy needs old buildings and what types of places we need to do a better job protecting to strengthen our economy. During the interview, Ms. Meeks' book was mentioned. After quick research, Ms. Gerrish produced the name of the book, *The Past and Future City: How Historic Preservation is Reviving America's Communities*. It was released in October 2016.

Ms. Wheatcraft said that there is a misconception of preservation in that many people believe that preservationists attempt to hold a place in a particular time period or do not allow a building to evolve. She said that the objective is to reuse historic buildings, and change or rehabilitation is usually necessary for this to happen.

5. Announcements

- VDOT Design Public Hearing for the restoration of Waterloo Bridge, May 17, 6:30 p.m. – Warrenton Community Center, 430 East Shirley Avenue, Warrenton

The ARB will have a Design Public Hearing for the restoration of the Waterloo Bridge. Ms. Root said that the anonymous donor of \$1 million may have been the impetus that encouraged VDOT to hold a public hearing. Ms. Wheatcraft mentioned that she would take part in the writing of a comment letter to VDOT on behalf of the County. Ms. Root said that she might craft a comment letter to submit it on behalf of the ARB.

- Public Hearing for Proposed Marshall Code, May 17, 6:30 p.m. Marshall Community Center, 4133 Rectortown Road, Marshall

Ms. Wheatcraft said that the County maintains a webpage dedicated to the proposed Marshall Code. She said that the most recent version of the draft Marshall Code document dated February 2017 is posted on the webpage. She informed the ARB that the first public hearing will be held on May 17 at the Planning Commission meeting.

- FHS Collecting Donations to save vandalized grave markers in the Warrenton Cemetery

Ms. Wheatcraft told the ARB that the Fauquier Historical Society is accepting public donations to repair the nearly 100 headstones damaged by vandalism in mid-April.

6. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:25 p.m.

7. The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, June 7, 2017.