

**FAUQUIER COUNTY
ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW BOARD**

Meeting Minutes

July 11, 2018

4:00 p.m.

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

Attendance:

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

Absent:

John Toler (Scott District Representative)

Staff:

Wendy Wheatcraft, Staff
Maureen Williamson, Staff

1. Ms. Root called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.
2. The June 6, 2018 meeting minutes were reviewed.

Mr. Jacobs made a motion to approve the minutes. Ms. Gerrish seconded the motion. The motion carried 5 – 0.

3. Ongoing Business

Ms. Root asked Ms. Wheatcraft about the progress of the Historic Resources Preservation Plan update. Ms. Wheatcraft told the ARB that the Plan is still a work in progress and reminded the ARB that it was set aside earlier in order to work on other imminent projects. However, she said she would add the update as an item on the next ARB meeting agenda.

Ms. Root discussed her continued work on the Plan, specifically *Appendix B: Historic Settlements, Hamlets, and Villages*. She noted needing assistance researching the small community of Bethel. Ms. Wheatcraft suggested she try contacting the Bethel United Methodist Church that may be able to provide some details.

Ms. Wheatcraft reported that the Upperville Historic District update project is still a work in progress. She noted that when the final draft of the grant product was received, it needed considerable additional work. She reported that she and DHR staff worked with the consultant on sections that were deficient, but in the end, she had to accept the revised copy as it was at that time, as the funding cycle had to be finalized by DHR. However, there is still more survey data to correct.

Mr. Lee asked about progress to the text amendment for Section 4-300 of the Zoning Ordinance that outlines the establishment of historic area districts. Ms. Wheatcraft said that

it was a work in progress and she would notify the ARB when the update was ready to be reviewed by the Planning Commission.

Ms. Wheatcraft gave a brief update on the disturbance of the cemetery at Rattlesnake Mountain. She informed the ARB that an instructional letter to the property owners had been sent. In the letter, she detailed the County's knowledge of the disturbance, cited the relevant State law section, and provided additional recommendations for mitigating further disturbance. She confirmed that a copy of the letter was sent to the Mount Paran Baptist Church Trustees and the Department of Historic Resources (DHR) since the cemetery is listed in the National Register of Historic Places as a contributing feature of the John Marshall's Leeds Manor Rural Historic District.

Ms. Wheatcraft suggested the initiation of a cemetery ordinance to help protect historic cemeteries in the county and to establish a procedure when dealing with cemeteries during the property development process. Several members of the ARB spoke in unison saying that the cemetery disturbance at Rattlesnake Mountain would provide an excellent example as to why the County needs a cemetery ordinance. Mr. Lee said that it needs to be known that there are two adjacent counties that already have cemetery ordinances in place.

4. New Business

Plans for New Fiscal Year, FY2019 (July 2018-June 2019)

Ms. Wheatcraft reminded the ARB of her suggestion to provide educational programming focusing on the 2019 American Evolution Project, specifically on the arrival of the first recorded Africans to English North America, who were transported to the Virginia Colony in 1619. She suggested that it may be thought-provoking (and relate well to historic preservation) to concentrate on identifying some of Fauquier's enslaved people who were known to be trained in the building trades, including: carpenters, masons, blacksmiths, and stone "fencers," as well as those involved in other trades, like cooking, sewing, and midwifery, and the buildings that they constructed that still stand today. Ms. Root stated that she and Mr. Jacobs wanted to research an enslaved builder by the name of Hannibal who was mentioned in connection with the construction of Grove Baptist Church in Goldvein. She said that she would also like to highlight work performed by enslaved women, as well. Ms. Wheatcraft suggested that the 1870 census documents may be one source of occupation information.

Ms. Wheatcraft presented pieces of Virginia State tourism, on which are advertisements already promoting the 2019 commemoration, now called the American Evolution Project.

Ms. Wheatcraft reported speaking with a resident who lives on Rock Mill Hill Road near which there is a slave cemetery that was referenced in an 1860 deed. Even though the location of the cemetery is hard to pinpoint, the resident gave Ms. Wheatcraft permission to search for the slave cemetery on his property. Timing for this fieldwork project was suggested as late fall when vegetation has died off. Ms. Wheatcraft reported that Wynne Saffer has researched and recorded property ownership and boundary lines as they would have been in 1861. She gave credit to Mr. Saffer, who while in the County Records Room, found a deed that mentions the slave cemetery in the area of Rock Mill Hill Road. She said that Mr. Saffer's research can be used to try to pinpoint the cemetery parcel. Mr. Saffer gave Ms. Wheatcraft an outline of his research and she said she will bring the pertinent section to the next meeting.

5. Announcements

- August 3, 2018 – Department of Historic Resources CLG Training
June Jeffrey Education Center, 126 N. Kent Street, Winchester
- August 25-26, 2018 – "The Slave Dwelling Project in Fauquier," Clifton Institute

6. The next ARB meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, August 1, 2018.
7. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:30 p.m.