

**FAUQUIER COUNTY  
ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW BOARD**

**Meeting Minutes**

November 7, 2018

4:00 p.m.

Warren Green Building, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Meeting Room  
10 Hotel Street, Warrenton

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**Attendance:**

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

**Absent:**

**Staff:**

Wendy Wheatcraft, Staff  
Maureen Williamson, Staff

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1. Ms. Root called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.
2. The October 3, 2018 meeting minutes were reviewed.

Mr. Jacobs made a motion to approve the minutes. Mr. Toler seconded the motion. The motion carried 6 – 0.

3. Ongoing Business

- Recap of Section 106 Review for the VDOT Route 15 Bridge (1907) Rehabilitation Project

Ms. Wheatcraft reminded the ARB that the Department of Historic Resources (DHR) had originally concurred with VDOT's findings through a review of a letter sent September 5, 2018, which concluded that Bridge 1907 was not individually eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) or eligible as contributing to a historic district or battlefield. Therefore, they determined that there would not be an effect on historic properties. She reiterated that she did not agree with VDOT's eligibility assessment. She further reminded the ARB that Bridge 1907 is a contributing structure of the Hedgeman-Rappahannock River Rural Historic District (DHR ID# 030-5607) determined eligible for listing in the NRHP in 2014. She wrote a letter to VDOT staff outlining this recommendation.

Ms. Wheatcraft told the ARB that Ms. Helen Ross of VDOT wrote a second letter dated October 24, 2018 in response to the County's recommendation. Marc Holma of DHR replied to Ms. Ross's second letter in which he conceded that the County was correct in saying that Bridge 1907 is contributing to the Hedgeman-Rappahannock River Rural Historic District (DHR ID# 030-5607); therefore, the effect of proposed project on the

structure must be considered. Mr. Holma determined that if the project was completed in accordance with the *Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation*, it would not adversely affect the resource. Ms. Wheatcraft complained that the effect could not be determined with certainty until VDOT completed more-detailed project specifications. She reminded the ARB that the trusses and railings were distinctive and significant architectural features that should be retained and repaired in accordance with the Standards. Because DHR made an official determination of effect, the Section 106 review process has closed.

However, Ms. Wheatcraft stated that VDOT was still providing a period of comment for the general public. During this open period of comment, she wrote another letter to VDOT with similar recommendations as the first and closed her letter by saying that the County wished to be notified throughout the rehabilitation process and would appreciate the opportunity to review and comment on additional specifications, as they were presented. She encouraged the ARB members to provide comments to VDOT, if they wished to do so.

- Fauquier County Vistas

Ms. Wheatcraft informed the ARB that staff is working on an update to the Rural Lands Chapter of the Comprehensive Plan and is attempting to identify significant scenic viewsheds within the County. Andrew Hopewell, Assistant Chief of Planning, described these as “views that are representative of the rural beauty of Fauquier.” She asked the ARB for suggestions of scenic viewsheds they thought worthy of identification and protection.

Mr. Lee noted that the County received a new GIS software package that is able to determine visibility of a project, based on the surrounding topographic features.

The ARB suggested the following vistas:

- Paris Valley (close to Ashby's Gap)
  - Entrance into Fauquier County on Route 17 from the south, the Milburn Farm
  - Route 15 – Journey Through Hallowed Ground
  - Route 522 looking east into Fauquier County
  - Traveling north on Route 17 near the old roller rink, looking towards the mountains to the south in the distance
  - Off of Route 647 looking to the southwest right at Crest Hill Road near Tapps Ford Road
  - Vistas near Marriott Ranch, Route 635, Hume Road
  - Hazel Valley – Airlie Road/Blantyre Road – both directions. North of Bethel.
  - In Marshall, Route 647 overpass over Interstate 66 – looking in both east and west
  - North on Rectortown Road looking northwest – 2 miles north of Marshall
  - Mellon property coming off of Route 50 (Oak Spring Farm) – Rokeby Road – both ways
  - Zulla Road – Locust Hill, Grasslands Farm
  - Turning from Route 29 into Warrenton (E. Shirley Road) near Lord Fairfax Community College – old Alwington estate
  - Currier place off of Route 55
  - Route 651 west of Remington towards Jeffersonton
  - Chestnut Lawn Farm
  - Green Road traveling south from the old landfill entrance – view of farms
  - Halfway Road from The Plains
- Research for 2019 Public Programs (Enslaved Craftsmen of Fauquier County)

Ms. Wheatcraft reminded the ARB of her suggestion to provide educational programming focusing on enslaved craftsmen of Fauquier County. She again noted that it will take a significant amount of research and asked the ARB for their assistance in listing sources in which to investigate. She suggested that the 1870 population census documents occupation information. She also mentioned WPA records. In addition, advertisements written for runaway slaves could provide information, as in them are sometimes mentioned the trade of the slave. Ms. Root noted the use of old wills in which are mentioned slaves names and at times, occupations. She also said that free blacks worked at the Waterloo Mill Complex, which mostly employed women.

Mr. Lee asked if Karen White of the Afro American Historical Association may have already researched enslaved craftsmen. Ms. Root noted that a program brochure could be created. As a part of the brochure, other trades besides the building trades could also be featured (including midwifery and others traditionally practiced by women).

Mr. Lee recommended contacting Cheryl Shepard as in preparing nominations she may have run across documents pertaining to buildings constructed by enslaved craftsmen. He also mentioned colonial churches being built by the enslaved.

Ms. Wheatcraft noted that there is a high probability that the 1808 and 1824 County jails may have been built with the assistance of the enslaved, but this has yet to be proven definitively through historic record.

Mr. Lee referenced a retired historic preservation professor at University of Mary Washington whose research has led to excavations of several former slave dwellings across Virginia. Mr. Lee said that Professor Sanford has helped shed light on the everyday lives of enslaved African-Americans and may be a resource for this project.

Ms. Root noted wanting to visit the Virginia Historical Society in Richmond to research an account book belonging to a William Skinker who owned a man named Hannibal. She said that that the enslaved were often hired out to others and feels that Hannibal may have been hired for various building projects. She stated that she and Mr. Jacobs were going to conduct research on enslaved builder Hannibal who was mentioned in connection with the construction of Grove Baptist Church in Goldvein.

Mr. LaMonica noted that Mark J. and Mark M. Wenger, both architectural historians and associated with Colonial Williamsburg and Montpelier, may be resources for this project.

Ms. Wheatcraft noted that she receives a monthly newsletter from Montpelier and said that their archaeologist may be a resource for this project.

Mr. Jacobs again noted that at Chestnut Lawn farm there are initials carved within one of the lintels that are thought to represent the enslaved craftsman who built the house.

#### 4. New Business

##### DHR's New National Register Procedures

Ms. Wheatcraft shared the DHR Register Program Update for October 2018. She highlighted DHR's efforts to develop new requirements for public engagement during review of historic district National Register nominations. A new draft form was presented for ARB's input.

Ms. Gerrish told the ARB that at the Town of Warrenton's October 2018 meeting, it was discussed that DRH would like to host a preservation workshop in Warrenton sometime in March 2019. She also told the ARB that she suggested a possible partnership with the County if a workshop was held in Warrenton. One workshop topic Ms. Gerrish noted was solar. Ms. Wheatcraft suggested energy efficiency as a workshop topic. Architectural survey, property maintenance and moisture, and a CLG training were noted as additional workshop topics.

Ms. Root suggested that Ms. Wheatcraft recommend a local cemetery for an on-site, one-day workshop as offered by DHR and noted in the October 2018 update.

5. Announcements

- Painting/Repair of Old Courthouse

Ms. Wheatcraft gave a brief synopsis of the ongoing repair and paint project involving the old County courthouse, as it was explained to her by General Services.

- Old Busthead Brewery

An alternative location was discussed for the December 2018 meeting. The ARB suggested meeting at Old Busthead Brewery in Vint Hill, as the ARB has done in the past for the December meeting. Mr. LaMonica volunteered to contact the brewery to ask if the meeting room is available.

6. The next ARB meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, December 5, 2018. Location to be determined.

7. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:37 p.m.