

**FAUQUIER COUNTY
ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW BOARD**

Meeting Minutes

November 6, 2019

4:00 p.m.

Warren Green Building, 2nd Floor Meeting Room

10 Hotel Street, Warrenton

Attendance:

Jack LaMonica, Vice Chair (Marshall District Representative)

Virginia Gerrish (Center District Representative)

Mary Root, Chair (Citizen-at-Large)

Bryan Jacobs (Lee District Representative)

Bob Lee (Planning Commission Representative)

Kristie Kendall (Cedar Run District Representative)

Members Absent:

John Toler (Scott District Representative)

Staff:

Wendy Wheatcraft, Staff

Maureen Williamson, Staff

1. Chair Mary Root called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.
2. The October 2, 2019 meeting minutes were reviewed. Mr. Jacobs made a motion to approve the minutes, as presented. The motion carried 5 – 0.
3. Ongoing Business
 - NPS “Surgical Pit” Presentation

Ms. Wheatcraft told the ARB that National Park Service Superintendent, Brandon Bies returned her e-mail regarding his availability to speak in Fauquier County about the discovery of the “surgical pit”. She noted it being rather late in the year for a public presentation and asked Mr. Bies if he might be willing to speak sometime in the coming year. He said that he no longer makes presentations on the subject, but would turn the request over to his Chief of Interpretation. Ms. Wheatcraft said she will keep this viable program on the list for next year in the subject area of battlefield archaeology. Ms. Gerrish suggested an educational program to take place sometime during the first quarter of 2020.
 - Finding Cemetery Along Rock Hill Mill Road

Ms. Wheatcraft said she would like to postpone the discussion on finding the cemetery along Rock Hill Mill Road until the January meeting. She told the ARB that she would not call the property owner to schedule a site visit until a more precise location of the cemetery is determined. At the January meeting, Ms. Wheatcraft said she will use the meeting room’s projector and screen to better allow the ARB to participate in an exercise to locate the cemetery by using maps of the area and the property research done by Wynne Saffer. She reminded the ARB that Mr. Saffer’s research focused on Fauquier County property lines as they were in 1861.

Ms. Root said she used Google Earth to help locate the cemetery as well as the Eugene Scheel map for Fauquier County, which she said lists a couple of graveyards in the area of Rock Hill Mill Road. She noted that one of the graveyards listed on Eugene Scheel's map of Fauquier County is in the name of Crupper. Ms. Wheatcraft noted that one of the two 1860 deeds that mention the burial ground includes the name of Crupper.

Mr. Lee asked about the use of ground penetrating radar to assist in the finding of the graves. Ms. Wheatcraft said that this technology is used for such purposes, but one must first know a more exact location of the burials, as it is expensive to operate.

As January 1, 2020 is a holiday and also the first Wednesday in the month, the ARB has agreed to meet one week later on Wednesday, January 8, 2020.

4. New Business

- Other Ideas for 2020 Programs

- Property Research Revisited & Dendrochronology

Ms. Wheatcraft introduced the idea of a program centered on research of historic property. She proposed a late winter early spring timeframe to host the event.

Ms. Wheatcraft mentioned the Peter Hitt house, which is owned by the Germanna Foundation and located where Tapps Ford meets the Rappahannock River. She noted that one focus of the research workshop could be on the dating of the house through archival research and the dendrochronology that was done. Ms. Kendall, a member of the Germanna Foundation Board, said she conducted the archival research on the property. She told the ARB that Mick Worthington of Oxford Tree-Ring Laboratory performed the dendrochronology. Ms. Wheatcraft asked the ARB what they thought about inviting Mr. Worthington to provide a brief synopsis on the dendrochronology process and the findings of his study. Ms. Kendall said that Mr. Worthington could most likely bring core samples taken during his research. She also mentioned Eric Larson, the archaeologist with Germanna Foundation, who did test pits around the cabin. She noted that he may be able to speak about how to use the study findings to talk about the property's history.

- Historic Property Maintenance & Sustainability

Ms. Wheatcraft also introduced the idea for a property maintenance and sustainability workshop in May, and the ARB discussed topics, including the importance of maintaining windows and doors, the effects of moisture on a building, weatherization, and air infiltration and how it affects energy efficiency. She told the ARB about Tim Fisher of Housemaster, a home inspection company, who Ms. Wheatcraft had seen speak in Fredericksburg. Ms. Kendall suggested the idea of asking a property owner who may have done some historic property maintenance to speak on their experience. Ms. Wheatcraft is thinking of a May timeframe for such a workshop, which would coincide with Historic Preservation Month.

5. Announcements

- Fauquier County Preservation Award Program Launch

Ms. Wheatcraft said that an article will be placed in the Community Development department newsletter to introduce the Fauquier Preservation Award Program. A draft of the newsletter article, which will be featured on the cover of the newsletter, was shared with the ARB. She said the newsletter will be issued in mid-to-late November and will serve as the first notification of the program. She said that within the article, there is a link which takes the reader to the ARB's webpage where the program forms are located.

- Ms. Gerrish mentioned that the Town of Warrenton is re-launching an award program of their own. She feels the two award programs are completely different and will not be in conflict with one another.
 - Ms. Wheatcraft said that she has re-scanned the Francis Fauquier emblem. She does not know if the resolution will be high enough for the award vendor to etch the emblem on the glass pitcher, but it did produce a better and higher resolution image file.
 - Ms. Wheatcraft said the Warrenton Cemetery tours in October were a success with thirty participants joining the first tour and eighteen joining the second tour. She said the tours centered on a general history of the cemetery and its evolution over the years, iconography, and some information on certain individuals buried within the cemetery. Each tour lasted about an hour. She told the ARB that cemetery caretaker, Paul Ashby, joined the second tour.
 - Karen White of the Afro American Historical Association notified Ms. Wheatcraft of a historic marker unveiling for the Rectortown Rosenwald School site, which is adjacent to Claude Thompson Elementary School along Rectortown Road. The program will be held at the elementary school at 11:00 a.m. on Saturday, November 23.
 - Ms. Wheatcraft told the ARB that DHR sent word regarding the Warrenton Training Center (WTC) proposing a project to replace columns on a historic building. She told the ARB that she thought all of the historic buildings had been demolished, but apparently there is at least one remaining, which WTC refers to as the Manor House. She said that the ARB may be called upon to comment on the project under a Section 106 review, as all local governments are automatically considered consulting parties according to federal code. However, Ms. Wheatcraft was still waiting on official project notification from the federal agency.
6. The next ARB meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, December 4, 2019. Ms. Wheatcraft confirmed that for the December meeting, the ARB will meet at Old Bust Head Brewery at **5:00 p.m.** The ARB members were invited to bring a food item to share.
7. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:18 p.m.