

**FAUQUIER COUNTY
ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW BOARD**

Meeting Minutes

March 2, 2016
4:00 p.m.
2nd Floor Conference Room
Warren Green Building
10 Hotel Street, Warrenton

Attendance:

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

Not in Attendance:

Virginia Gerrish (Center District Representative)
Scott District Representative (position open)

Staff:

Wendy Wheatcraft, Preservation Planner
Maureen Williamson, Staff

1. Call to Order.
Ms. Root called the meeting to order at 4:12 p.m.
2. Review/Approval of Meeting Minutes – February 3, 2016
The February 3, 2016 meeting minutes were reviewed. Ms. Root made a motion to approve the minutes. Mr. Lee seconded the motion. The motion carried 5 – 0.
3. Ongoing Business

- Francis Fauquier Family Crest as New Architectural Review Board (ARB) Insignia.
A general discussion was had about the ARB's adopting the Francis Fauquier family crest to be associated with the Fauquier County Architectural Review Board and used on educational material developed by the ARB.

Action: On a motion made by Ms. Root and seconded by Mr. Jacobs, it was moved to adopt the Francis Fauquier coat of arms as the insignia of the Architectural Review Board. The motion carried unanimously.

- Drafts of Revised ARB Webpage(s) of New County Website
Ms. Wendy Wheatcraft informed the Board that the County's new website will go live in mid-March. She reviewed the ARB webpage developed for the new website.

Ms. Wheatcraft described the new main ARB webpage as a listing of the ARB's purpose, duties, membership composition, and current members with term expiration dates. In addition, she noted that the webpage will have links to past ARB projects and educational programs, historic preservation in Fauquier County, frequently asked

questions, and an application for appointment to committee. She also said that there will be a link to past agendas and meeting minutes.

Ms. Root and Mr. LaMonica mentioned other projects the Board would like to showcase on the new website. In particular, the ARB discussed adding their contribution on village historic districts under the link to Past ARB Projects and Educational Programs. Ms. Wheatcraft stated that she would write a section regarding the village historic districts and add it below the link to the Fauquier County Civil War Symposium.

Mr. Lee suggested that Ms. Wheatcraft extend an invitation to Ms. Maral Kalbian, the consultant who performed the initial survey work on the village historic districts, to attend one of the ARB's meetings and explain her work to the newest members.

- May 2016 Public Education Program

Ms. Wheatcraft proposed inviting architectural historian, Mr. Mike Spencer, who uses new, non-destructive technologies, such as infrared thermography to date and assess historic structures, to speak at the public workshop. Mr. Spencer is an Associate Professor at the University of Mary Washington and Director for the Center for Historic Preservation. The ARB, liking the idea of inviting Mr. Spencer to speak at the program, gave Ms. Wheatcraft the go ahead to extend the invitation.

Ms. Wheatcraft reported that there are funds available in order to offer Mr. Spencer a small honorarium, if requested.

The location of the public education program was discussed. Ms. Root proposed holding the program at the John S. Mosby House on Main Street in Warrenton. Mr. LaMonica said that the Warrenton-Fauquier Visitor's Center may be a better option, as the facility has suitable infrastructure for public meetings, including tables and chairs and is ADA compliant. Mr. LaMonica and Ms. Root suggested the attendees visit John S. Mosby House after the presentation at the Warrenton-Fauquier Visitor's Center to learn more about dating building materials. It was mentioned that Becky Crouch is the contact for determining availability at the Warrenton-Fauquier Visitor's Center. The group discussed the possibility of setting up the room the night before.

As Ms. Root noted the poor acoustics in the Warrenton-Fauquier Visitor's Center and the difficulty of hearing speakers, Mr. Jacobs offered a small, portable sound system that could be used during the program. Ms. Root said that she has a fifty-five cup coffee urn, which could also be used for the program.

Mr. Lee proposed inviting the Town of Warrenton's ARB to partner with the County's ARB for the education program. Ms. Wheatcraft will attend the Town ARB meeting and introduce the possible project partnership. Mr. Lee asked Ms. Wheatcraft to let ARB members know of the meeting time and location so that anyone who is available may attend the meeting.

Ms. Wheatcraft proposed two dates for the program: the second Saturday in May, May 14, or the third Saturday in May, May 21. The Board selected Saturday, May 14 as the date of the public workshop with Saturday, May 21 as an alternate date. ARB members noted having no conflicts with the selected first date. The Board agreed to a 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. timeframe.

Ms. Wheatcraft noted that advertising the event is important to the success of the program. She asked all ARB members to help get the word out. Ms. Root mentioned

utilizing the Citizens for Fauquier County and the Piedmont Environmental Council's email contact lists as a method of distributing a press release/flyer. Ms. Wheatcraft noted advertising in *Fauquier Now*, *Warrenton Lifestyles Magazine*, and Mr. Jacobs suggested the Remington Press's *The Villager's* community calendar. Ms. Wheatcraft said she would develop a flyer for posting at local libraries and businesses.

4. New Business

Ms. Rogers mentioned an area in Fauquier County called Frytown, which she would like to see designated as a historic district. She noted that this area was settled by a free slave and believes the residents of this neighborhood are keenly interested in achieving some sort of historic designation. Mr. Lee told Ms. Rogers that Karen Hughes-White of the Afro American Historical Association of Fauquier County, which is in The Plains, would be able to provide guidance. He also said that he feels it important for Ms. Kalbian to present to this group what she has done for the County over a fifteen year period and what remains to be done in regard to historic districts. He continued by saying that if Ms. Kalbian is invited to speak to the Board, this would be an opportunity for Ms. Rogers to discuss the Frytown designation with her.

Ms. Wheatcraft said that sections of Frytown were previously surveyed and the majority of the properties have been identified with a survey number. However, she believes there is a 7-10 year time limit on surveys, so the properties may need to be resurveyed. She said that the first step in developing a historic district designation would be to complete a Preliminary Information Form with the Virginia Department of Historic Resources and suggested that this is a project the ARB could work on as a group.

Ms. Rogers noted speaking to a gentleman on whose property stands a stagecoach stop. Ms. Wheatcraft wondered if the building had been surveyed. If not, she asked Ms. Rogers if she thought the property owner would give the ARB access to the property for surveying purposes. Ms. Rogers knows the property owner personally and said that gaining access would be no problem. She said the structure is on Route 211 just past St Leonard's Farm.

Ms. Rogers noted that she owns a farm in Culpeper County on which there is a historic house. While reading ARB new member material, she came across federal and state historic preservations laws, which noted that if one demolishes a property that can be linked with historic significance, a civil fine could be incurred. She told the ARB that the historic house is in severe disrepair and has been severely altered inside. The law she referenced was Section 15.2-744 of the Virginia State Code, which provides enabling legislation for a locality to establish a local law regarding wrongful demolition of buildings within designated historic areas and the authority of the locality to impose civil penalties for wrongful demolition, razing or moving of such buildings. As Ms. Rogers does not want to break any laws, she asked the ARB for an interpretation of the law. Ms. Wheatcraft noted that the law enables Culpeper County to penalize property owners, but, in this case, she knows of no such law adopted with Culpeper County.

5. Announcements

Ms. Wheatcraft said that Chapter 2 is being brought back before the Planning Commission on March 17, 2016 for the continuation of the public hearing.

Mr. Lee submitted a flyer inviting the Board to the annual meeting of the Warrenton Antiquarian Society. The meeting will be held at the Little Fork Episcopal Church in Rixeyville on March 14, 2016 at 2:00 p.m. Dr. John Ragosta is the featured guest speaker.

6. The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, April 6, 2016.

7. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:38 p.m.