

**ALBEMARLE COUNTY HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMITTEE**  
**MINUTES** for June 27<sup>th</sup>, 2022, Virtual Meeting

ATTENDANCE:

<b>Committee Member Name</b>	<b>Present</b>	<b>Absent</b>
Ross Stevens, <i>Chair</i>	X	
Liz Russell, <i>Vice-Chair</i>	X	
Pete Cypret, <i>Secretary</i>		X
Betsy Baten	X	
Peter Daniel		X
Daniel Gidick	X	
Craig Jacobs		X
Ed Lay		X
Carter Montague	X	
Nancy Takahashi		X
Phylissa Mitchell	X	
Bea LaPisto-Kirtley, <i>BOS Liaison</i>		X
Karen Firehock, <i>PC Liaison</i>	X	
<b>Staff Member Name</b>		
Margaret Maliszewski, <i>Planning Manager</i>	X	
Khris Taggart, <i>Planner</i>	X	
Carolyn Shaffer, <i>Clerk</i>	X	

1. Call to order:
  - a. Chair Ross Stevens called the meeting to order and established a quorum at 4:45 pm.
  
2. Approval of Minutes from April 25<sup>th</sup>, 2022:
  - a. The committee members offered no changes to the minutes for April.
  - b. Liz Russell motioned for the approval of the minutes; Phylissa Mitchell seconded, and the motion was unanimously approved.
  
3. Subcommittee Updates:
  - a. Demolition and Documentation:
    - i. **8963 Schuyler Rd.** Carter Montague documented this resource which was a part of a group of houses along Schuyler Rd. that was built as company homes for employees at the nearby Alberene Soapstone Company. Carter noted that the foundation of the house was made of soapstone and the house was clad in vinyl siding with asphalt siding underneath. Carter also added that many of the associated houses along this road make use of soapstone, likely remnants workers used from production
    - ii. The Committee reviewed the demolition report and discussed the 2 properties that were noted as pending: 2883 Seminole Trail and 500 Cismont Manor Farm.
    - iii. Ross noted that the property at 2883 Seminole Trail (Ridgewood Motel) should be documented because it is reflective of an era of motor lodges that are no longer in existence.
    - iv. Khris Taggart noted that the resource at 500 Cismont Farm is likely a contributing resource to the Cismont property and should be documented.
    - v. **ACTION** – Khris will reach out to the demo permit applicants to see if both the properties can be viewed for documentation.
  
4. Discussion items:
  - a. Comprehensive Plan / Historic Preservation Plan Updates:
    - i. Questions/suggestions on Comp. plan / HP plan research assignments

## ii. Comp. Plan / HP Plan Research Assignment Schedule

1. Ross started the discussion with his localities, Fairfax and Loudoun County, he noted that they have several local historic districts. He added that the County could potentially start with a small area as a local district and work from there. Ross stated that he is still working on finding out how and when their districts began. Liz added that looking at the localities' code of ordinance may be helpful in finding information on the history of their historic districts. Ross added Loudoun County has programs for restoration that includes tax incentives.
2. Margaret added that the localities' Comprehensive and/or Historic Preservation plans may have the history of the local historic district establishment. Margaret also gave a brief overview to Karen Firehock, the new Planning Commission liaison, of the current research into other localities' Comp. Plan/HP Plan that is being done by committee members in preparation for updates to the County's Comp. Plan/HP Plan.
3. Liz shared her findings on Hanover County:
  - a. The County adopted an ordinance in 1992, that applies to at least 3 villages and 17 districts. Currently, the focus is buildings but does mention the potential to expand to landscapes and archaeological sites. Liz noted that there appeared to be some disjointedness between the Comp. Plan, Code, and the applicable board/commission (Architectural Review Board and Historical Commission) within the county.
  - b. Liz added that the makeup of the Historical Commission (1 Board of Supervisors, 1 member of each of the 7 magisterial districts, and a representative from selected historical organizations in the county) is interesting in that it is intentional and brings a different dynamic.
  - c. On their Comp. Plan, Liz noted that it has a tiered approach regarding historic sites. Category 1 includes properties that are National Historic Landmarks, category 2 includes properties and districts on the National Register of Historic Places, and category 3 includes surveyed resources or potential resources not included within categories 1 or 2.
  - d. Their Comp. plan makes the connection between (heritage) tourism and historic preservation, but no connections are made to economic development.
  - e. Next step would be reaching out to staff to see how their Comp. plan and HP plan work in practice (staff hours, funding, etc.)
4. Liz noted the letter received from Preservation Piedmont regarding the imminent Dunlora demolition and the general need for protection of other historic properties within the County. Liz added that Preservation Piedmont noted the need for an ordinance within the County but added that smaller steps could be taken prior to an ordinance such as establishing incentives to avoid or delay demolitions and establishing a local historic marker program.
5. Commissioner Firehock asked about the idea of a local historic marker program. Liz noted that the Committee was tasked through the Community Remembrance Project with recommending and installing 5 local historic markers. The Committee also began the process of fleshing out how a local historic marker program would look within the County, but this work was tabled to focus on updates needed to the Comp. Plan/HP Plan.
6. Betsy Baten added that the county she was assigned, Arlington County, has an extensive program that includes a historic preservation overlay district that is reviewed by a design review board. She added that Arlington County could be a good example to mimic even if it is not all at once.
7. Ross questioned how to get the Historic Preservation Committee more involved in weighing in on projects in the future. He said that the committee wants to be a resource.
  - a. Margaret noted that staff currently reviews and provides historic preservation comments on rezonings and special use permits.
  - b. Liz suggested it may be helpful to know how many Rezonings/SUPs are being reviewed that have historic resources.
8. Liz asked if the Committee could set up something similar to Dropbox so members could share documents with other committee members.
  - a. **ACTION** – Margaret said she would look into this to see if it would be possible.

9. Commissioner Firehock noted that homestays could be a potential way that historic properties could be retained and renovated.
10. Betsy Baten questioned the opposition to a historic preservation ordinance. Margaret noted that work originally started on an ordinance concurrently with the historic preservation plan but ultimately the plan was adopted without the ordinance.
11. Liz noted that there is work that the Committee, the County, and preservation organizations need to do prior to beginning any work on an ordinance.
12. Margaret added that the committee needs to be specific on why an ordinance is needed (numbers, examples, what is the significance of what has been lost).
13. Ross added that voluntary designations may be an alternative route that could eventually become the framework for establishing an ordinance. Margaret added that Virginia Beach has a program (Virginia Beach Historical Register) that recognizes buildings of cultural significance. The program is honorific and carries no regulatory restrictions but does allow property owners to apply for local tax exemption for rehabilitation.

b. Comprehensive Plan Research / Committee Member Assignments

- i. Committee members' task is to research the types of projects and programs from other Historic Preservation Programs to answer questions such as what has been successful, and what could potentially be successfully replicated in Albemarle County.
- ii. **ACTION:** Carter will report on his findings at the next meeting.

5. Other Business

- a. New owners of historic properties?
  - i. None noted
- b. Threatened properties to watch?
  - i. None noted
- c. Recently demolished structures?
  - i. None noted
- d. Resources available to assist in the implementation of the HP Plan?
  - i. None noted

6. Announcements:

- a. Next Meeting July 25<sup>th</sup>, 2022, at 4:30 pm, **VIRTUAL**.

7. Adjournment of Full Committee Meeting: 6:00 pm.