



1  
2  
3  
4 **Historic Preservation Commission**  
5 **Final Meeting Minutes**  
6

7 **September 13, 2007**  
8

9 Members Present: Chairman John A. Kish  
10 Vice Chairwoman Maria L. Hicks  
11 David T. Heim  
12 E. Curtis Alexander  
13 James E. Canterbury  
14 James S. Bokern  
15

16 Members Absent: None  
17

18 Others Present: Roger P. Morgan, General Services Representative  
19 Lennie Luke, Parks and Recreation Representative  
20 John King, Environmental Code Enforcement Administrator  
21

22 Chairman Kish brought the meeting to order at 4:02 P.M.  
23

24 **Announcements.**

25 Commissioner Bokern reported that former Commissioner James W. McElroy was  
26 removed from the Commission on September 11, 2007 by the City Council. They did  
27 not appoint any new members to occupy the two vacant seats on the Commission.  
28

29 **Approval of the Minutes from the July 18, 2007 Meeting.**

30 Commissioner Alexander had some comments on the minutes. He requested that his  
31 statement regarding reprimanding the chairman for being late to meetings should be  
32 removed from the minutes. He also corrected a reference to the St. Brides Cemetery  
33 regarding why it wasn't funded for a Civil War Trails marker. He also wanted the record  
34 to show that he did not approve the video production. He requested that the date a  
35 church was constructed be deleted.  
36

37 Commissioner Alexander made a motion to approve the minutes as amended and the  
38 motion was seconded by Commissioner Canterbury. All members voted for approval of  
39 the amended minutes.  
40  
41

1 **Great Bridge Battlefield Project.**

2 Roger P. Morgan, General Services Representative, made a presentation to the  
3 Commission about the Great Bridge Battlefield Visitors Center and the anchor project at  
4 Great Bridge Locks Park.

5  
6 Commissioner Alexander asked what the purpose of the presentation was in terms of  
7 what the Commission is supposed to do with the information. He indicated that he has  
8 some questions about the project.

9  
10 Chairman Kish responded by stating that it was an informative presentation on an  
11 important historical project in the City of Chesapeake. It is important for the  
12 Commission to know what other groups in the City are doing relative to Chesapeake  
13 history and historic preservation. He continued that it also gives the Commission an  
14 idea of what is involved in historic restoration as they move forward with other projects  
15 in the City.

16  
17 **Historic Structure Demolition Program.**

18 Commissioner Bokern stated that the staff is trying to develop a historic structure  
19 demolition notification program based on the Commission's strategic plan. John King  
20 from the Department of Neighborhood Services discussed some possible ways that the  
21 program could be implemented. He suggested that the Department of Information  
22 Technology would have to place a flag on the properties in the property database. This  
23 is already being done for the historic structures in the South Norfolk Historic District. It  
24 was determined that the next step in the process was for the Chairman to write a letter  
25 to the City Manager requesting that the Department of Information Technology begin  
26 implementing this program by flagging historic properties in Chesapeake on the  
27 property database.

28  
29 **FY 2008-2009 Operating Budget.**

30 Chairman Kish prepared a proposed operating budget for the Commission. He indicated  
31 that he is working with Assistant Director Karen Shaffer of the Planning Department to  
32 determine what steps need to be taken to prepare an operating budget for the 2008-  
33 2009 fiscal year. He stated that several items in the strategic plan will require money.  
34 He indicated that he had reviewed the capital improvement plan for the City and  
35 outlined some current expenditures for existing projects in the budget. He reviewed in  
36 some detail the proposed specific expenditures for the Commission. Commissioner  
37 Alexander questioned the funding allocated for the City Historian position as being too  
38 low. It was determined that the Commission would review the budget in detail at their  
39 next meeting. Commissioner Alexander made a motion to include the Bells Mill  
40 Historical Research and Restoration Society, Inc. in the budget. Vice Chairwoman Hicks  
41 seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously by the Commission.

42  
43  
44

1 Lennie Luke, Parks and Recreation Representative indicated that he had discussed  
2 moving the Cornland School to the Great Dismal Swamp Trail with the Director of Parks  
3 and Recreation and the superintendent of grounds and they both are supportive of the  
4 relocation. He stated that they were working on Phase 2 of the trail. The total funding  
5 for the project is 1.7 million dollars of which \$400,000 is for architectural expenses.  
6

7 Commissioner Alexander stated his support for moving the school. Chairman Kish  
8 stated that the City staff needs to do more research on this issue because relocating  
9 the building may impact its ability to be listed on the historic registers.  
10

### 11 **Election of Officers.**

12 Commissioner Bokern stated that the Commission is late in electing its officers for the  
13 year. Officers for the Commission are supposed to be elected each June per its bylaws.  
14

15 Chairman Kish stated that he would welcome someone else taking over as Chairman.  
16 Commissioner Alexander asked Commissioner Canterbury how he would feel about  
17 being nominated. Commissioner Canterbury stated that he was not interested in being  
18 Chairman. Commissioner Heim also declined the nomination. Commissioner Alexander  
19 made a motion to retain the existing Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson of the  
20 Commission with Commissioner Heim seconding the motion. The motion was approved  
21 by acclamation.  
22

### 23 **Civil War Trails Markers.**

24 The Commission reviewed a draft of the Unknown and Known Afro-Union Civil War  
25 Soldiers Memorial prepared by the Civil War Trails group. Commissioner Alexander  
26 stated that the Planning Department was not qualified to rewrite his draft narrative for  
27 the Civil War Trails markers. He had several criticisms of the draft marker as prepared  
28 by Civil War Trails. It was agreed by the members of the Commission that  
29 Commissioner Alexander would prepare revisions to the draft of the marker to submit to  
30 Civil War Trails.  
31

### 32 **Cornland School Restoration.**

33 Commissioner Bokern indicated that the state denied the cost-share grant for the  
34 nomination of the Cornland School to the federal and state historic registers. He  
35 provided members a copy of the denial letter. The reasons for the denial were an  
36 emphasis on other rural preservation priorities and a lack of a preservation plan for the  
37 building.  
38

39 Commissioner Alexander stated that Mark Shea previously had provided the  
40 Commission with the wrong information on this issue and it should be reflected in the  
41 minutes. Commissioner Alexander stated that staff should not send any information to  
42 outside sources with his name on it without his approval. The application contained  
43 some inaccurate information. In the future, all applications should be reviewed  
44 internally by the Commission before going to outside sources.

- 1 It was stated that the Commission would take a field trip along the Dismal Swamp
- 2 Canal on October 17, 2007. The tour would be sponsored by Commissioner Canterbury
- 3 and the Historic Waterways Foundation.
- 4
- 5 The meeting was adjourned at 5:32 P.M.