

## **Historic Yorktown Design Committee**

### **Minutes**

February 17, 2021  
East Room  
York Hall  
301 Main Street  
Yorktown, Virginia

**Members Attending:** Carolyn Weekley, Chair  
Robert Hodson, Vice Chair  
Jose Longoria  
Belinda Willis, alternate

**Staff Attending:** Earl W. Anderson, AICP

Mr. Anderson called the meeting to order at 7:01 PM and read the following statement:

This electronic remote meeting is being held pursuant to and in compliance with Ordinance No. 20-11(R), adopted by the York County Board of Supervisors June 16, 2020, pertaining to the continuity of County operations associated with the COVID-19 pandemic disaster. This meeting will be closed to in-person participation by the public. Public hearing comments could be made by participating in the zoom meeting and contacting Earl W. Anderson.

### **New Business**

#### **Election of Officers**

Mrs. Willis nominated Carolyn Weekley for Chair and moved approval of the motion. By voice vote, the motion was approved unanimously.

Mr. Longoria nominated Robert Hodson for Vice-Chairman and moved approval of the motion. By voice vote, the motion was approved unanimously.

### **Minutes**

The minutes of the January 20, 2021 meeting were approved unanimously.

### **Old Business**

None

**Applications for Certificates of Appropriateness**

**Application No. HYDC-192-21, Celeste and Josip Guacanac, 600 Main Street**

Mr. Anderson stated that this application, submitted by Celeste and Josip Guacanac, seeks an approval for a new historical marker honoring Lafayette's return to Yorktown in 1824 and are seeking guidance from the Committee regarding placement of the marker on their property at 600 Main Street. The applicant's proposed design is described and depicted in the attached materials. The marker sign would be a two foot (2') by three foot (3') cast aluminum sign on a seven-foot (7') aluminum pole. The sign once placed would be approximately six feet (6') in height, with three feet (3') of the pole being placed underground.

The text of the sign will be the following:

“LAFAYETTE’S TOUR  
FROM OCT. 18 TO 20, 1824,  
GENERAL LAFAYETTE  
RETURNED TO YORKTOWN.  
CELEBRATIONS HONORED THE  
VICTORY AT YORKTOWN IN 1781.  
WILLIAM C. POMEROY FOUNDATION”

In staff's opinion, the proposed historical marker sign does not appear to be covered in the Design Guidelines either in the residential nor commercial signage sections. The proposed sign would be located on a property where a Pivotal residential structure, built prior to 1865 is located. The applicants are requesting the Committee discuss and approve an appropriate location for the sign to be installed. Since the Guidelines do not specifically discuss historical marker signage, staff felt the Committee should review to a general consistency with the overall guiding principles of the Guidelines.

Staff recommends approval of the historical marker, with the specifications/details as submitted by the applicant. Staff believe that placement of the sign would be most appropriate in the northeastern corner of the property along Main Street.

Mr. Anderson asked if there were any questions for him or the applicants.

Ms. Weekley stated that she had concerns with the language used on the sign and suggested some grammatical changes to the wording.

Mrs. Celeste Guacanac stated that the wording could be edited, but there was a certain message that they were working toward to show that Lafayette visited Yorktown after the Revolutionary War. She agreed with staff's recommendation to place the sign at the

northeast corner, as this would have been the path that those docking in Yorktown would have taken to reach the bluff area. They would walk up the hill and the sign would be located right where the Main Street area would have started.

Mr. Julien Icher remarked that the Lafayette Trail is a national trail and marks the tour of the United States that the French General did after the Revolutionary War. The trail has several of these style signs throughout the East Coast. The sign sizing, color, and wording are indicative of the language on them all. They want to reflect a consistent style throughout, so they are recognizable by those that are looking for them as they follow the travels of Lafayette.

The Committee discussed the color and size of the size and suggested that it match the existing signage that is used by the National Park Service or other monuments in Yorktown.

Mr. Icher reiterated the desire of the Lafayette Trail group to have a consistent sign throughout the trail, so that the branding was the same.

Mrs. Willis moved approval to the request to place the new historical marker sign at the northeast corner of the property.

By voice vote the motion failed.

The Committee further discussed the sign colors and asked if they could be changed or if the sign could be attached to a small rock monument similar to the one at the Nelson House.

Mr. Icher stated that the sign colors reflect the colors of the United States flag and the French flag. The colors are the branding for the sign and are was travelers look for as they are following the trail.

Mr. Bill Cole noted that the sign would not detract from Yorktown, but would add a new component to the Historical Village that could attract visitors to the area.

The Committee debated the location of the sign and wondered where on the northeast corner the sign could be located.

Mr. Anderson remarked that he was unsure exactly where the property line was located and where the right-of-way for the road started.

Mrs. Guacanac stated that the property line runs in front of the wall.

Mr. Anderson showed County maps of the property and requested that a survey be done to correctly locate where the property line was in this area, so as not to place the sign in the right-of-way.

Mr. Hodson agreed and asked the Committee about other locations in Yorktown where this kind of marker might be effectively located.

The Committee discussed various locations around Yorktown and felt if the marker could not be placed in front of the wall at 600 Main Street, the marker should be located at York Hall or on other York County property.

Mr. Hodson moved approval of the request for a new historical marker sign to be located at 600 Main Street, subject to the following conditions:

1. The sign shall be constructed according to the pictures and description as submitted with the application.
2. The sign shall be located outside the brick wall at 600 Main Street along the right-of-way in the northeast corner of the property. A survey will be completed to determine if the location is within the 600 Main Street property and not on Virginia Department of Transportation right-of-way.
3. If the location is not within the property limits of 600 Main Street, the applicant will work with York County to place the historical marker sign on the County-owned property at York Hall.

By voice vote, the motion was approved unanimously.


### **Committee Requests**

None

There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 8:35 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Earl W. Anderson, Secretary

Approved by HYDC: 

## Historic Yorktown Design Committee

### Minutes

March 17, 2021  
Virtual Meeting  
Zoom

**Members Attending:** Carolyn Weekley  
Robert Hodson

**Staff Attending:** Earl W. Anderson, AICP

Mr. Anderson called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM and read the following statement:

This electronic remote meeting is being held pursuant to and in compliance with Ordinance No. 20-11(R), adopted by the York County Board of Supervisors June 16, 2020, pertaining to the continuity of County operations associated with the COVID-19 pandemic disaster. This meeting will be closed to in-person participation by the public. Public hearing comments could be made by participating in the zoom meeting and contacting Earl W. Anderson.

### Minutes

Mr. Anderson stated that the minutes from the February meeting were not recorded, so he was still working to recreate the minutes from memory. He said that he would have them ready for the next meeting.

### Old Business

None

### Applications for Certificates of Appropriateness

#### **Application No. HYDC-193-21, David Bowditch, 702 Main Street**

This application, submitted by David Bowditch owner of the Hornsby House Inn, seeks approval for the installation of divided-light sliding glass doors, French doors, and windows onto the existing pavilion that was approved by the Committee on July 19, 2017, and is located at 702 Main Street. The pavilion is used for outdoor activities associated with the private weddings and receptions that the bed and breakfast establishment is authorized to host pursuant to the YVA (Yorktown Village Activity District) zoning approval granted by the Board of Supervisors on September 16, 2014 (Resolution No. R14-108[R]). The pavilion was constructed to alleviate the need for the temporary tents that had been used in conjunction with numerous receptions conducted on the property since the 2014 zoning approval (and which were authorized by that approval).

The proposed changes would enclose the existing northern and western open walls of the pavilion with divided-light sliding glass doors, divided-light French doors, and divided-light windows that could be retracted and open or close the structure to the elements. The enclosure would consist of three (3) ten foot (10') divided-light sliding glass door units, two (2) three foot (3') divided-light glass doors, an eight foot (8') divided-light French door, and a divided-light 43 inch window. All trim and siding are to match the existing trim and siding of the pavilion.

In staff's opinion, the proposed addition of the divided-light sliding glass, divided-light French doors, and divided-light window will conform the existing pavilion to a similar design to the existing principal structure and is generally consistent with the Design Guidelines. Staff believes that the proposed changes will be visually appealing and that it merits approval. Accordingly, it is recommended that the Committee find the proposal consistent with the Guidelines and that the application be approved, subject to the following conditions:

1. The doors and windows shall be constructed in accordance with the exterior features depicted on the drawings and with the supplementary information presented with the application
2. Trim material shall be painted wood or cellular PVC.
3. All door hardware shall be simple in design and appropriate to the character of the building and the district, and shall be subject to approval by the Zoning Administrator.
4. Exterior colors of all siding, trim, doors, and roofing materials as presented in the application materials shall be from the Yorktown Color Palette.

Staff recommends approval of this request.

Mr. Anderson noted that Mr. Adkins, who owns the home to the rear of the subject property called and stated that he had no objections to what Mr. Bowditch is proposing.

Mr. Anderson asked if there were any questions for him or the applicants.

Mr. Bowditch stated that they are planning to use the same colors and trim as on the house, with a similar door style. The reasons for doing this is that the open pavilion gets dirty because it is open. He also agrees with the staff that with the enclosure it will look much better and similar to the Hornsby House. There will also be benefits for noise reduction when he closes it up. His goal is to have smaller events and not maximum amounts of guests for weddings and events.

Ms. Weekley asked if they were going to have HVAC.

Mr. Bowditch said that the pavilion already has HVAC in the bathrooms and can easily be converted with the existing unit to provide heat and air to the new enclosed area.

Mr. Hodson remarked that he visited the site and took a look at the proposed windows and doors. The materials are quality and he does not have any questions.

Ms. Weekley asked about the proposed sound system that was to be installed that would be controlled by the caretaker.

Mr. Bowditch said they have a two speaker system that is controlled by the caretaker. Often though people bring their own systems.

Mr. Hodson moved approval of the application to find the proposal consistent with the Guidelines and that the application be approved, subject to the following conditions:

1. The doors and windows shall be constructed in accordance with the exterior features depicted on the drawings and with the supplementary information presented with the application.
2. Trim material shall be painted wood or cellular PVC.
3. All door hardware shall be simple in design and appropriate to the character of the building and the district, and shall be subject to approval by the Zoning Administrator.
4. Exterior colors of all siding, trim, doors, and roofing materials as presented in the application materials shall be from the Yorktown Color Palette.

By voice vote, the motion was approved unanimously.

### **New Business**

#### **Discussion of Watermen's Museum exemption**

Mr. Anderson stated that the County's position on the Museum and other similar uses was to allow any educational component of the Museum to be constructed without HYDC approval. Items like the Betsy and windmill were exempted from review as they are an educational component. He noted that the Guidelines do not address these educational components. The most recent buildings were to house various educational components like boat building, rope making, etc.

Mr. Hodson said that he was surprised to see the structures being built without HYDC approval. He does not agree with the County's position that it should not be looked at by the HYDC. There is an architectural component to what they are building. He understands that people would take acceptance to certain items. Even though they are an educational institution there should be some architectural consistency to what is built on the site. The back lot area is a haberdashery of various buildings. He felt like any buildings should be reviewed by the HYDC.

Ms. Weekley agreed and said she understood that not all things fall within the Guidelines, but they could be reviewed for color and materials and such. The little booths design does not seem to have much meaning and are not linked with anything else on the site.

Mr. Hodson stated that he thought if they are permanent stations he would prefer to have input into what they look like. He said the policy was put into place during Mark Carter's day and he would like to have a discussion with whoever makes the ultimate decision.

Mr. Anderson stated it would be up to the Zoning Administrator to decide and he has had some conversations with her.

Ms. Weekley stated that the Museum is at the entry to Yorktown and provide a first impression to the waterfront. In her experience she has seen Colonial Williamsburg submit for review of their structures. She feels like the Watermen's Museum should have the same level of review. These little structures need to be reviewed. She understood that the ship and windmill would be more difficult to review, but it still should be reviewed.

Mr. Hodson stated that he walks by there three times a week and it really is the first thing you see as you enter Yorktown.

Ms. Weekley asked if they were required to get a Building Permit.

Mr. Anderson said that he contacted the Building Safety department and they sent an inspector down there to investigate, they did not, as of this morning, have any new information.

Ms. Weekley noted that the Guidelines limit the number of dependencies a property is allowed to have and the Museum already has multiple buildings on the site that go beyond the three properties are limited to have.

Mr. Hodson remarked that the materials are very diverse and not wholly matching. He would have liked to have some input on them. He also had a concern with them parking various things in their parking area, like the Ben & Jerry's trailer. He felt that there should be some rules for improving that waterfront area.

Mr. Anderson stated that he would share their thoughts with the Zoning Administrator and have her make a decision.

### **Staff Reports**

Mr. Anderson stated that the van Montfrans were approved for replacing an existing side yard fence and the Pub was approved for resurfacing the parking area under their tent rather than the gravel. They will have a brown peastone asphalt surface. He noted that the Pub will not be allowed to have the tent permanently, but it could stay for only as long as the COVID-19 guidelines were in place. He also noted that the van Montfrans will also be adding a roof to their stoop, but have to go through the Yorktown Village Activity permit process first. He also noted that a new home will move forward to the HYDC soon in Chischiak Watch. This was previously approved, but the couple never built, so a new owner is coming forward with a request. He also discussed the King's deck revisions.



**Committee Requests**

There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 7:38 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Earl W. Anderson, Secretary

Approved by HYDC: EW. Anderson