

Minutes of the WCA Meeting November 6, 2003

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 pm.

Working with Loudoun County's Historic District Review Committee (HDRC)

The meeting started with a presentation by Kevin Ruedisueli, Chairman of the county's Historic District Review Committee (HDRC) and an architect by profession. Mary Dudley, a member of the committee, and Heidi Siebentritt, Loudoun County Department of Planning also attended. Kevin provided an excellent overview of the kind of information that homeowners living in or planning to move to a historic district should know. He mentioned some helpful, hints and a few surprises:

- Before undertaking any changes, inside or outside, find out if there are any interior or exterior easements placed on the house. Usually, but not always, information about easements is made known to a potential buyer by the seller or seller's agent. Be sure to ask, since easements against changes to a structure are generally permanent and may not be changed.
- Find out which kinds of information about changes you plan to make that the HDRC needs to know about and which they don't. For example, you do not need to put before the committee information about what color you plan to paint your house; the choice is entirely yours. The use of asphalt shingles on houses and other buildings on your property is fully acceptable (although not encouraged.) Also, ordinary repairs to structures, such as the replacement of siding, generally do not need the approval of the HDRC, provided that such replacements are "in kind", i.e., of the same kind of materials used in the construction of the original structure.
- For major changes, including add-ons to existing structures, Kevin suggests you contact the HDRC and set up a meeting with the county staff, who will help you put together any information that will need to be approved by the Review Committee. The HDRC meets the first Monday of every month; applications for modifications to or addition of structures on your property need to be submitted two weeks in advance.
- While you can't "pickle" Waterford, as is possible with Williamsburg, said Kevin, the HDRC takes into account the overall nature, and particularly the architectural style and flavor of the community being affected when it rules on petitions by homeowners. It also takes into account the concerns of those who live in the area.

The Phillips Farm Sale: Status report:

Cate Wyatt spoke about the last six month effort to raise the money to purchase the Phillips Farm. So far 3.5 million dollars has been raised and the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality will provide a low interest loan for the rest needed. \$50,000 was raised at the Waterford Fair.

Phillips Farm Use

Bruce Cleveland discussed some of the options for which the Phillips Farm might be used. The farm is eased for agricultural use however, there have been discussions about also using the land for additional purposes. The Foundation is interested in hearing any ideas from Waterford residents and the Foundation will be involving citizens in the discussions. The Foundation will be evaluating its mission which will include increasing its education commitment, developing new facilities, and buying remaining blocks of land for easement. He also discussed the role of Foundation members in its policy formulation and its need to communicate its activities to the community.

Wireless Internet Service

Bruce Cleveland noted that a wireless internet service has been established to help raise money for the Waterford Foundation. To start, its range will be about one mile from the Old School and cost \$59 per month.

Old Business

Motion was made seconded, and approved to defer the approval the minutes of the September 9th meeting until the next WCA meeting.

New Business

Election of new officers for 2004

The new officers are Ed Lehmann, President; Mary Foran, Vice President; Jim Waggoner, Treasurer; Secretary, Vacant.

Fair BBQ results

The results of the BBQ were reviewed. Sales were down. Because of a possible theft from the booth, new procedures have to be established to assure that this doesn't happen again. Box lunches and preorders for the vendors were discussed. When the PTO asked the Foundation about doing this, they were turned down as being unfair to other food vendors.

Simms House Update

Laura Shaw presented an update of the activities concerning the Simms house. The current owners are appealing the HDRC ruling that their addition is too massive for the house. They are also asking for permission to demolish the house. Citizens were encouraged to make their views know to the appropriate government office. A motion was made, seconded, and approved that the WCA ask the Board of Supervisors to support the HDRC ruling against adding the massive addition.

Budget

The 2003 WCA costs and revenues were reviewed by Jim Waggoner. A copy of the budget is attached hereto.

Beautification Committee

Nick Ratclif reported that 6 trees were planted during the year.

Motion was made, seconded, and approved that the WCA donate \$250 to the Save Waterford campaign.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 pm.

Secretary pro tem
Edward Lehmann