

CAPTAIN JOHN SMITH CHESAPEAKE NATIONAL HISTORIC TRAIL ADVISORY COUNCIL

SUMMARY OF MEETING, October 22, 2008

The Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail Advisory Council convened for its first meeting at 9:30 A.M. on October 22, 2008, at the Historic Jamestowne Visitor Center in Jamestown, Virginia. In accordance with the provisions of Public Law 92-463, the meeting was open to the public from 9:30 A.M. to 4:00 P.M.

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

- Stephen R. Adkins
- Suzanne C. Baird
- Deanna Beacham
- Lloyd L. (Scott) Beatty, Jr.
- H. Hedrick Belin
- E. Keith Colston
- John R. Griffin
- Elizabeth A. Hughes
- Kathleen S. Kilpatrick
- Jeffrey L. Lape
- Ann W. Loomis
- John Maounis
- Joseph Maroon
- Susan R. Moerschel
- Kim Nielson
- Patrick F. Noonan
- Stuart L. Parnes
- John J. Reynolds
- J.W. Peyton Robertson, Jr.
- Ann Swanson

OTHERS PRESENT REPRESENTING ABSENT ADVISORY COUNCIL MEMBERS:

- George Hawkins, District Department of the Environment
- Bill Pencek, Maryland Department of Business and Economic Development

OTHERS PRESENT FOR ALL, OR A PORTION OF THE MEETING, WERE:

- Cheryl Branagan, National Park Service
- Suzanne Copping, National Park Service
- John Davy, Virginia Department of Conservation & Recreation
- Christine Lucero, National Park Service
- Everett Marshall, Kilda Group LLC
- Jen Miller, Kilda Group LLC
- Mike Steen, NPS Volunteer

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

John Griffin and Pat Noonan, who had not been present at the information and training meeting the day before when all other Council Members introduced themselves, introduced themselves to the rest of the Council members.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

John Reynolds led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Stephen Adkins gave a traditional American Indian blessing.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

No members of the public elected to make comment.

REVIEW GOALS OF THE ADVISORY COUNCIL

At the request of the Chairman, John Maounis presented a chart summarizing the three goals of the Advisory Council:

1. Gather basic information about the trail, planning issues, and the planning process
2. Advise on the most critical issues for the development of the trail
3. Advise on the development of the Comprehensive Management Plan

GENERAL DISCUSSION

In the ensuing discussion, a diversity of thoughts and ideas were presented and discussed to amplify and clarify the goals. These thoughts and ideas were captured by meeting recorders, and will be used by the National Park Service and the Advisory Council in the Comprehensive Management Planning process.

COMPREHENSIVE MANAGEMENT PLAN – PRELIMINARY RESULTS OF PUBLIC OPEN HOUSES

John Maounis outlined the process and schedule for the Comprehensive Management Plan, briefly described the primary planning objectives, and summarized the preliminary results of the public open houses. The main themes of what the public has said so far include:

- Communities want to participate
- Landscapes and sites along the trail should be preserved
- There should be additional public access
- Heritage tourism is a significant motivator
- Need to encourage preservation of the Chesapeake Bay

WORKING LUNCH

John Maounis presented a series of slides which conveyed some of the major issues surrounding the development of the Comprehensive Management Plan and The Trail. In addition to the issues and questions that were presented to the in the 8 public workshops, the major objectives for the CMP were presented:

- Identify the resources significant to the Trail
- Develop strategies for the preservation of these resources
- Define the visitor experience
- Determine how and where visitors will access the Trail
- Describe the services and facilities necessary

The council members brainstormed ideas about the following two planning objectives:

- Identifying Resources Significant to The Trail

- Determining How and Where Visitors Will Access the Trail

REVIEW OF INTERPRETIVE PLAN

Cheryl Branagan shared her draft of the interpretive plan. She covered the following topics:

- Conservation education
- Three optimum scenarios of potential trail users
- How to get people to care, conserve, preserve, and become stewards
- Interpretive themes
- Next steps (the Interpretive Plan is in draft form and will be finalized concurrently with the CMP)

The Council found the presentation to be very compelling, and considerable discussion ensued. The Council expressed its appreciation to Cheryl for her participation.

CHESAPEAKE BAY INTERPRETIVE BUOY SYSTEM

Peyton Robertson described the Chesapeake Bay Interpretive Buoy System (CBIBS). He showed slides of the six buoys in the Chesapeake Bay region and described how they work, their purpose and the vision for the CBIBS program in the future. He announced that there is a MOU between National Oceanic Atmospheric Association (NOAA) and the National Park Service.

CONNECTING TRAILS

Patrick Noonan discussed the fundraising effort to do a feasibility study for a complementary program in cooperation with the National Park Service on a series of connecting trails to the Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail. This project is in the early discussion/design stage.

NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE SYSTEM

Suzanne Baird discussed the mission of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, how the wildlife refuges could be incorporated into the Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail, and the process that the Fish and Wildlife Service would use to make these decisions in concert with the CMP.

COORDINATION WITH STAR-SPANGLED BANNER

Bill Pencek described the newly authorized Star Spangled Banner National Historic Trail, which is a part of the National Trails System.

PENNSYLVANIA WATER TRAILS AGREEMENT

John Maounis discussed an agreement that was signed to encourage the development and enhancement of Pennsylvania Water Trails and how they might connect to the Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail.

FRIENDS OF THE JOHN SMITH CHESAPEAKE TRAIL

Patrick Noonan described the Friends of the John Smith Chesapeake Trail, a newly incorporated 501.c.3 nonprofit foundation which will operate in partnership with, and advocacy for, the John Smith Trail.

WRAP-UP AND NEXT STEPS

Members each made closing remarks. The next Advisory Council meeting was scheduled for March 25 and 26, 2009. The location is to be determined.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 4:00 P.M.

I hereby certify that, to the best of my knowledge, the foregoing minutes are accurate and complete.

John Maounis, Superintendent
Captain John Smith National Historic Trail
National Park Service

John Reynolds, Chairman
Captain John Smith National Historic Trail
Advisory Council

These minutes will be formally considered by the Council at its next meeting, and any corrections or notations will be incorporated into the minutes of that meeting.