

CAPTAIN JOHN SMITH CHESAPEAKE NATIONAL HISTORIC TRAIL ADVISORY COUNCIL

Summary of Meeting, May 22, 2009

The Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail Advisory Council convened for its second meeting at 8:30 A.M. on May 22, 2009, at the Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum in St. Michael's, Maryland. In accordance with the provisions of Public Law 92-463, the meeting was open to the public from 8:30 A.M. to 12:30 P.M.

Council members present:

- Stephen R. Adkins
- Suzanne C. Baird
- Deanna Beacham
- Lloyd (Scott) Beatty
- Elizabeth A. Hughes
- John Maounis
- Susan R. Moerschel
- Kim Nielsen
- Patrick F. Noonan
- Stuart L. Parnes
- John J. Reynolds, Chair
- J.W. Peyton Robertson, Jr.
- William Street

Others Present Representing Absent Advisory Council Members:

- Bill Daisey, Nanticoke Indian Association
- John Davy, Virginia Department of Conservation & Recreation
- Jim Edward, Environmental Protection Agency
- George Hawkins, District Department of the Environment
- Lisa Gutierrez, Maryland Department of Natural Resources
- Bill Pencek, Maryland Department of Business and Economic Development

Others present for all, or portions, of the meeting were:

- Christine Lucero, National Park Service
- Jen Miller, Kilda Group LLC
- David J. O'Neill, President, Friends of the John Smith Chesapeake Trail
- Mike Steen, National Park Service Volunteer
- Charles A. Stek, Chairman, Friends of the John Smith Chesapeake Trail
- Heather Wickens, National Park Service
- Jeff Winstel, National Park Service

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

John Reynolds and John Maounis welcomed the Advisory Council members to the meeting.

MEETING MINUTES APPROVED

Meeting minutes from the last Advisory Council meeting were approved.

CURRENT STATUS OF THE COMPREHENSIVE MANAGEMENT PLAN

MILESTONES

- Develop preliminary alternatives
- Present alternatives to the public
- Refine and prepare the CMP/EA
- Issue public response document
- National Park Service Regional Director approves final plan late Spring 2010
- Make final plan available to public and to Congress

Alternative themes to be presented to the public should include the following:

1. A continuum of change
2. How Captain John Smith encountered the native culture
3. How the native culture encountered the arrival of the English
4. How different audiences affect how The Trail is designed (i.e. paddlers, hikers, campers)

ALTERNATIVE TRANSPORTATION PLAN

Jeff Winstel presented an update on alternative transportation plans for The Trail:

- Funding has been received to put toward examining alternative transportation to and around The Trail.
- The Volpe Center in Cambridge, MA has been hired to do a gap analysis between existing transportation and potential for additional transportation systems and make recommendations. Due date: end of summer 2009.

GENERAL DISCUSSION:

Members of the Advisory Council discussed ideas surrounding alternative transportation:

- Examination of Baltimore cruise ship industry involvement- loudspeaker tours, video tape tours
- Shallop as a floating visitor center
- "Scientist at Sea" tour- cruise to see region's animals & vegetation
- Possibility of additional legislation for funding of staff

CURRENT IMPLEMENTATION OF THE TRAIL

Jeff Winstel updated the members of the council on the status of the signage for the trail to include trail markers and orientation panels. He passed around sign "mock-ups" to the group for review and comment.

GENERAL DISCUSSION:

Members of the group raised questions and shared ideas around the following:

- Orientation panels
 - Focus on entire trail or personalized by sight?
 - Will orientation panels at each site be combined with others that currently exist?
Concern for signage overcrowding
- Standard kiosk design or alternative design?
- Make signs double-sided
- Possible passport options/ use of stickers for each site

BREAK

MOTION

Motion raised for National Park Service and/or Secretary of the Interior to:

1. Examine existing National Park Service holdings which border the Trail and evaluate how these sites could afford additional public access either to or from the water for Trail users. Such evaluation should be done in concert with the states and other appropriate agencies in which such properties are located.
2. In particular, the CAJO Advisory Council recommends that the evaluation examine the following sites owned by the National Park Service:
 - a. NPS properties along the Anacostia River in Washington, DC
 - b. George Washington Birthplace National Monument
 - c. Colonial National Historical Park, and
 - d. such other NPS holdings as may be ideally suited for CAJO access.

The Motion was passed.

EXECUTIVE ORDER - CHESAPEAKE BAY PROTECTION AND RESTORATION

Jim Edward gave an overview of the milestones and tasks under the Executive Order:

- The Executive Order will ensure Federal actions
- 7 reports required in 120 days, including a report on expanding public access and conserving significant landscapes and ecosystems which NPS has responsibility for.
- EPA has responsibility for water quality report
- Draft reports due September 12, 2009
- Extensive consultation with partners
- Bay Watershed entities
- Federal Strategy within 180 days for public comment
- Executive Order defines strategy requirements
- Overall strategy and reports will be released for public review on November 12, 2009

John Reynolds gave an overview of the National Parks Second Century Commission

- The commission is set up to recommend how the National Park Service should exist in the next 100 years.
- The Chesapeake Bay will be specifically mentioned in background reports.

GENERAL DISCUSSION:

- Recreation review report was briefly discussed. Report being conducted by Resources for the Future (RFF.org) will look at future of land and blue ways around July 1, 2009.
- It was noted that there are many current activities going on in the Trail's area of interest.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Charles Stek and David O'Neill announced to the Advisory Council that the Friends of the John Smith Chesapeake Trail are there to help and to be an advocate.

FINAL COMMENTS

Chief Stephen Adkins stated the following:

- The work on the Trail will elevate the visibility of native tribes and educate people about who natives are today as well as in the past.

- Recommended additional diversity on the Advisory Council.

WRAP-UP AND NEXT STEPS

The next Advisory Council meeting was tentatively scheduled to be held in Washington, DC for late summer or fall of 2009.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 12:30 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.