

SPECIAL TOPIC WORKSHOP #3 SUMMARY HISTORIC & CULTURAL RESOURCES



PlanQAC's third Special Topic Workshop was held virtually on Thursday, March 4, 2021 at 1:30pm via WebEx and telephone call-in. The purpose was to solicit community input on topics related to the Comprehensive Plan, more specifically Historic & Cultural Resources. Below is a summary of the Workshop's discussions and participant questions.



Discussion Topic: What are QAC's greatest historic and cultural assets? What are QAC's greatest historic and cultural needs?

Assets:

- Our working waterfronts, our maritime heritage should have a greater emphasis placed on it. We should capture the culture and historic sites and aspects that we have as well. QAC is very rich with a lot of historic sites but one of the issues is that to keep these sites open and staffed as educational institutions would require the education system to understand that these sites are an important part of the educational system.
- I would say all of them – the variety of resources & their connections (and potential connections)

Needs:

- There is a lot of heritage here, it just has been taken for granted. Looking towards the future, there is danger in us losing that history. There's tremendous value in heritage tourism. When I look back at our '02 plan and what we recommended as well as our '10 plan, it still is in the form of recommendations of acknowledging the value but depending on the goodwill of property owners and citizens. We should take it from the form of recommendations and putting it in the form of regulations as part of our planning process. Want to be sure that our past plays a part in our future.
- Volunteer to document properties during demolition; if there's ever going to be a regulation to have more emphasis during a demolition that we get involved closer to the beginning of the process. The demo permit process is too late to do any preservation or documentation; with regard to how we preserve or do salvage work – we have to start earlier in the permit process.
- Important to think about historical resources in the 20th century
- Historic resources need to be accessible – if people can't get to them they're not as valuable;
- Wanted to make a strong recommendation. Agree with [Verbal Commenter]. We now have a policy that gives 30 days. Would love to strongly recommend that we have actual strong guidelines. "Click and Burn" policy.
- I really support what [Verbal Commenter] said about using historic resources for education purposes. Also support what {Commenter} said but go a bit further. It's not just about the house/building. It's about the cemetery that almost always comes with it. And I want to see EQUITY. This county is not giving equal prominence to all individuals both present and past. We don't pay enough attention to the slave history – they get no credit. The plantations were great – maintained by slaves and they get no credit. Equity in the comp plan along with whatever appropriate ordinances come out of this. Sad situation is that there are a number of instances where slave cemeteries have been taken to the dump. When people come to do planning, they need to know in advance what the proper historic resources are on that property.
- In reference to the working waterman – we need to find a way to keep this asset but make people aware of it so we keep them. Can we find ways to draw people into it, we may be able to get people to join in. We have great architecture and historic buildings in Kent Island, and we need to find a way to get people to realize what a great asset it is. We have churches dying in the African American community that we need to try and save. We need a way to connect them together as part of the

learning system – the people running them are old. And we're at a risk of losing the people volunteering and running these sites.

- Kent Island Heritage society could share something in terms of education. We've been blessed in developing a relationship with Kent Island High School. Presentations on Kent Island History and have gotten time with specific classes; The more we can do things like involve the youth the better things will be.

Discussion Topic: Historic & Cultural Preservation Vision

- Incorporating little bits of history along trails and in parks could go a long way to have more information as far as the educational component goes
- Some of our places that have historic and heritage – if we make them easier to find/put signs with them it would make it easier to access
- When you go out and you mention historical sites and societies you get cringe faces. If we advertised more about what and how we do what we do, we may be more well received. Be more public and open and supportive and not just show up at the end.
- Need to find out how to get our younger citizens to find out about their historic and cultural heritage.
- Is there a need to encourage visitors into his statement? Is that included under promoting as a part of that vision
- The vision statement could incorporate more of a personal touch – it's more about the County and not the people
- In reference to [Verbal Commenter] and people understanding what the heritage partners are doing. More support from the commissioners and county department heads about the historical work and recognition of it is needed. The County has Bloomfield (now Whitemarsh Park); there are hundreds if not thousands of kids a year that use Whitemarsh Park fields without knowing that 90 slaves used that property from the 1800's to the MD emancipation. We know ages and gender – never given their names. The County has never even put a sign up so that the kids know that the dirt their playing on has a history. Would like to see more recognition of our historic properties.
- I'd like to see heritage specifically include native American, enslaved people, women, etc in addition to the more colonial history

Discussion Topic: What projects/goals should be focused on over the next 10 years in regards to Historic & Cultural Preservation?

- There's been a limited adherence to the scenic byway designation objectives
- Potentially encourage more higher education studies; a bit of a disadvantage because we don't have a higher education facility with a history department
- Support for historic traded skill training/workforce development would go hand in hand with that effort
- in regards to the main street program – it may not be very strong in QAC and it may not be very strong within the state system. The four point approach and thought process around historic preservation in our historic downtown districts wasn't being practiced. Recommend strengthening those; Related to the NEPA study – we have been following that within the Kent Narrows Development foundation; great concern with how it will affect the Kent Narrows. A lot of tradesmen are not well schooled in historic preservation rehab methods. It's hard when you're restoring a historic building to know how much it will cost. Need for more helping mechanisms for rehabbing homes.

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- Agree with [Verbal Commenter] in regards to the bridge issue. It's a big deal and has a massive impact on the Island and all of Queen Anne's County. Strongly recommend that we move forward with regulations within our comp plan dealing with archeological protection and preservation. County needs an appointed Historic paid County staff position
 - Haven't heard anything about a digital footprint or digital sources like apps. We should consider some sort of digital presence. It would be a good way to tie in an educational component.
 - Absolutely underline everything that [Verbal Commenter] has said. We have tried so long – been turned down by the Commissioners. We don't pay attention to what we DO have in terms of the effort that we've gone to. The war of 1812 – of all of the counties in the state – we have the most signs and the most sites. There is no signage on Rt. 50 for the 1812 park. One of only 2 parks that were done for commemoration. We need to start promoting what we have. Centreville has a historic trail – we've done a map, but it is almost gone. Until we get a staff person at Canard, we are doing the African American community no good service in making sure that all of the effort that the group has gone through doesn't go to waste. We need a full time paid staffed person.

All comments and questions will be considered during the development of PlanQAC. Additional comments or questions can be submitted through the project website: <https://www.qacplan2021.com/>