

**Historic Alexandria Resources Commission
Annual Report
July 2024 – June 2025**

Summary of Accomplishments

The mission of the Historic Alexandria Resources Commission is to advise the City in the preservation of historic sites and buildings, artifacts, and records from loss or deterioration; and promote citizen and tourist use of historic sites and the Torpedo Factory Art Center. Within these guidelines, HARC's membership completed the following activities during its 2024/2025 year.

HARC Policy and Membership Accomplishments

- Membership remained steady throughout the year. No quorums were missed during the year.
- During FY 2024, HARC's meetings focused on a wide range of issues (as detailed below). Emphasis was placed on discussion of issues relevant to the HARC mission and goals. Deliberations consistently addressed (1) whether HARC positions should be communicated to other organizations relevant to historic preservation and other areas of concern and (2) whether actions should be taken.
- HARC addressed the deterioration of the Jones Point Lighthouse National Park Service Historic site. This included a letter to Mayor Justin Wilson, which was followed up with a letter to Alexandria City Council. The issue included the return of funds from NPS to the city of Alexandria to support release of said funds. HARC also updated Mayor-Elect Gaskins on this project.
- The Waterfront project for flood mitigation was another focus of HARC. The Commission heard from Mark Landis from the Department of Project Implementation, Waterfront Mitigation Project at the January 2025 meeting. HARC members have continued to follow up on the evolution of this project.
- HARC has continued to monitor the progress of the City Hall project. A decision will be made in the future if it is necessary to form an Ad Hoc committee to deal with issues raised about architectural features that may be incompatible with the historic district.
- List any policy changes – none to report

Member Activities

- No activities outside of regular meetings (retreats, planning sessions, etc) were held this year.

Goals for 2025-2026

- Discussions have been held regarding new member on-boarding, and ways to help people get active. One idea is to provide a list of acronyms for new members.
- Develop briefing book for City Council members on what HARC is and does
- Better integrate the needs of OHA into HARC activities.
- Diversify HARC's advocacy methods, introducing the following tactics when appropriate.
- Improve internal HARC operations.
- Continue HARC's commitment to preserving historic sites and structures.
- Ensure HARC addresses the needs of Alexandria's other historic resources, including but not limited to artifacts, records, and intangible cultural heritage.
- Ensure HARC serves historic resources in addition to those in Old Town.
- Increase HARC's visibility and connection to the public and community associations.

Leadership

- Officers for the upcoming year were elected at the November 2023 meeting: Chistopher Brownlowe will serve as Chair, Donna DeBlasio as Vice-Chair. Roberta Stevens was elected as Secretary
- List term expirations and new members, with month they were appointed

Shawn Eyer ended Dec 2024

Mark Farkas ended June 2025

Nigel Meese appt. Dec. 2024

Corrine Marasco appt. October 2024

Deborah Osborne ended October 2024

Michael Pope appt. June 2025

Rebecca Rose ended February 2025

Rebecca Super appt. November 2024

- During the course of the year, membership included the following individuals:

Bailee Barfield

Michael Pope

Carol Black

Rebecca Rose

Christopher Brownlowe

Gail Rothrock

Donna DeBlasio

Tim Rose

Shawn Eyer

Lisa Schumaier

Mark Farkas

Tom Schultz

David Kovalik

Roberta Stevens

Laura Lieberman
Barbara Marvin
Corrine Marasco
Nigel Meese
Mia Mulrennan
Deborah Osborne
John Patrick

Russell Simonaro
Robert Stevens
Steve Stuart
Rebecca Super
Ivy Whitlatch

- Gretchen Bulova and [Department] acted as the staff liaison to HARC during the course of the 2024/2025 year.

Attachments

1. Attendance Report
2. Letter to Mayor and City Council, 07 April 2025 RE: Welcome Letter / HARC ongoing issue items
3. Letter to Mayor and City Council, 01 June, 2025 RE: Jones Piont Lighthouse deterioration and restoration concerns

Historic Alexandria Resources Commission (HARC) attendance for FY 25

[illegible]

**X= present, E= excused, A= absent, R= remote, N= not
part of commission**



Alexandria, Virginia

Historic Alexandria Resources Commission

*220 North Washington Street
Alexandria, Virginia 22314-2521
(703) 746-4554*



April 7, 2025

Mayor and Members of the City Council
City of Alexandria

Dear Mayor Gaskins and Members of the Council:

On behalf of the Historic Alexandria Resources Commission (HARC), congratulations on your recent election and thank you for your continued service to our City!

As you know, HARC advises the City on the preservation of its rich heritage in the form of the buildings, artifacts, and records left to us by previous generations of Alexandrians. We also aim to promote the continued enjoyment of our historic sites by today's generation of Alexandrians and visitors alike. Our members are representatives of the City's key cultural and historic institutions as well as the business and tourism communities.

One of our ongoing projects is working with City Council and the Mayor's office to call attention to the neglected condition of Jones Point Lighthouse, a National Park Service property that guided mariners on the Potomac River from 1856 to 1926 and helped Alexandria's commerce thrive. We have also been closely following the planned renovations to City Hall, Waterfront Flood Mitigation, and the multiple development projects currently happening throughout the city. Together, we are working to preserve the legacy of Alexandria's dynamic history as we move into the city's exciting future.

The volunteer members of HARC look forward to working with you and staff in the upcoming year! Please reach out to us any time you have questions about Alexandria's historic resources. We stand ready to lend our collective knowledge and experience and render any assistance that you may need.

Respectfully,

Christopher Brownlowe, Chairman
Historic Alexandria Resources Commission

cc: James F. Parajon, City Manager
Gretchen Bulova, Director, Office of Historic Alexandria



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June 1, 2025

Mayor and Members of the City Council
City of Alexandria

Re: Jones Point Lighthouse

Dear Mayor Gaskins and Members of the Council:

On behalf of the Historic Alexandria Resources Commission (HARC), I am writing to recommend that you approve the National Park Service (NPS)'s proposal to transfer funds regarding a renovation of the historic Jones Point Lighthouse.

Completed in 1856, the lighthouse is one of the last "riverine" lighthouses in the country and the only one still standing in the Chesapeake Bay area. It was replaced in 1926 by an automated light tower, and sadly became deteriorated before the NPS restored it for the opening of the NPS's new Jones Point Park in the early 1960s. Over time the lighthouse suffered more damage, so the NPS restored it again in 2012 when the Woodrow Wilson Bridge was rebuilt.

Since then, deferred maintenance has resulted in alarming deterioration yet again. By way of background, HARC had previously sent council a letter dated December 2, 2021, requesting that the city contact the NPS to try to expedite badly needed repairs. The NPS replied on December 22, 2021, outlining how budgetary constraints were hindering any efforts to repair the structure, but promised to set up a dedicated "tiger team" to address the problems.

After more than two years passed with no activity, we wrote council again on October 29, 2024, alerting you to the dire conditions at the lighthouse. We were excited to learn that the NPS has indicated it would be willing to transfer the funding allocated for a mitigation project that had been completed to a renovation of the Jones Point Lighthouse and its immediate surroundings.

HARC requests that you approve the NPS proposal in order to preserve one of Alexandria's most important cultural and historical resources in the George Washington Memorial Parkway area.

Thank you.

Respectfully,

Christopher Brownlowe, Chairman
Historic Alexandria Resources Commission

cc: James F. Parajon, City Manager
Gretchen Bulova, Director, Office of Historic Alexandria