



Area legislators discuss history

Patrick Henry trail is subject of their first meeting of year

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Where but in the Richmond area would a legislative caucus talk about history?

Meeting for the first time during this legislative session, the Capital Region Caucus yesterday heard a presentation on a proposed "Road to Revolution Heritage Trail" that would commemorate Richmond-area sites significant to Patrick Henry.

Del. Christopher K. Peace, R-Hanover, co-sponsor of a measure that would establish the heritage trail, said similar historical sites have seen a doubling of attendance when designated as part of a tour.

Peace and Del. Jennifer L. McClellan, D-Richmond, co-sponsored the legislation.

Henry, known for his oratory, was Virginia's first governor after independence. He made the famous "Give me liberty, or give me death" speech at St. John's Church on Church Hill in Richmond.

As envisioned by Peace, tourists following the "Road to Revolution" trail would begin at Scotchtown, Henry's home in Beaverdam in Hanover County, proceed to Hanover Tavern at Hanover Courthouse for lunch, stop by the nearby courthouse where Henry practiced law, go to Pole Green church in Mechanicsville, where Henry sometimes worshipped and then motor to St. John's Church.

If time remained, they could go to another Henry home, Red Hill Plantation in Campbell County near Brookneal, where Henry died in 1799.

Peace compared the trail to the Crooked Road, a historical tour in Southwest Virginia that promotes the region's musical heritage, and to the Civil War trails that have been set up in Virginia.

The caucus made no recommendations on the proposal.

Consisting of 21 legislators from the Richmond region, the caucus is co-led by Del. John M. O'Bannon III, R-Henrico, and Sen. Benjamin J. Lambert III, D-Richmond. It meets weekly during the session, usually hearing presentations from local nonprofit groups seeking state money.

The Greater Richmond Chamber of Commerce prepares the agenda, after consulting with caucus members.

O'Bannon said the group will discuss budget matters at future meetings but is not likely to have an overarching regional agenda on transportation or other major issues.

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