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Road to Revolution Heritage Trail begins

By DAN SHERRIER

Virginia's first post-colonial governor has been receiving a bit of attention lately.

The Road to Revolution Heritage Trail Consortium met Tuesday, July 24, for its fifth formal meeting to continue discussing the establishment and promotion of its namesake.

According to the consortium's mission statement, the Road to Revolution Heritage Trail is intended to be "an educational and heritage tourism trail linking historic sites that highlight and commemorate the American Revolution and Patrick Henry's leading role in liberating Virginia from Colonial rule, creating an independent nation, and shaping American ideals and institutions."

Several organizations with ties to Patrick Henry have been participating in the creation of the trail, including the Historic Polegreen Church Foundation, the Hanover Tavern Foundation, Hampden-Sydney College, the Virginia Tourism Corporation, the Hanover County Historical Commission, and the Patrick Henry Center for Individual Liberty, among others.

Hanover County has agreed to serve as the fiscal agent for the program.

Earlier this year, Del. Chris Peace drafted legislation to the General Assembly for the establishment of the trail.

The approved bill outlines many of the sites that will be linked together through historical signage.

The Hanover County sites include: Patrick Henry's birthplace at Studley, Rural Plains at Mechanicsville, Pine Slash at Studley, Scotchtown at Beaverdam, the Hanover Tavern, the Hanover County Courthouse, and the Historic Polegreen Church.

The signage will be identifiable through a common logo, which has been designed by Clay Hamner and is awaiting approval from the Department of Historic Resources. The approval is required in order for the logo to be placed on historical markers.

All signage, identifying and directional, will have to conform to Virginia Department of Transportation standards and will be funded by the organizations within the consortium.

Hamner has also reserved RoadtoRevolution as a Web site name. The ending of the Web address (.com, .org, etc.) is undetermined. To begin, the initial Web site may feature a map, links to other relevant sites, and a copy of the legislative bill.

Much more work lies ahead for the individuals and organizations within the consortium, as information is gathered on various historical sites while funds are acquired.

An exact completion date is unknown at this point, but the consortium intends to keep the public informed on its progress as it makes its way toward its ultimate goal of keeping history alive within Virginia.

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