

Don and Peggy attended the Yancey School Community Center Advisory Committee meeting, chaired by Siri Russell, Management and Policy Analyst and a Friends of Esmont contact with Albemarle County. The Yancey School Community Center will have a number of tenants/activities including Health Dept, JABA, Food Pantry, Yoga, Aerobics, English 2nd Language classes, Alternative High School.

Met with AZ couple who made an offer on the two houses next door to Purvis Store property. They gave up and bought property in Schuyler due to issues trying to deal with Wells Fargo Estate Department. Peggy trying to talk with Wells Fargo to work out problems. They have 4 Esmont properties all vacant!

We are forming the Friends Board of Directors. **Peggy Denby**, Chair and Chair of Purvis Store Project; VC vacant; **Don Jones**, Secretary and Chair of Fulfillment Farms Project; **Robbbyrda Preston**, Treasurer; **Anna Boeschenstein**, Director and Chair of Rails to Trails; **Mark Otis**, Director and Advisor to Purvis Store Project; **Judy Brochu-Blake**, Director and Community Liaison.

There are two important Tours of Esmont coming up: October 18 at 3PM, Faculty from UVA School of Architecture will “Visualize Esmont.” (see email attached)
Note: This Tour was quite successful; the A School is on board – very exciting.

Albemarle Housing Improvement Program will conduct a “needs assessment” tour with us on Nov 12, 10-12 noon (see attached)

Committee Report – Rails to Trails – Anna (See Attached)

Other - See Information attached re **Trunk or Treat** on Halloween Night in the church parking lot.

Suggestion was made to place Notices of Friends Meetings in places like Green Mountain Store, Esmont Post Office and Yancey School Community Center. This has been done except for Yancey School Community Center as their Community Bulletin Board has not yet been installed.

Another suggestion was to get the History of Esmont documented. (See attached email from Kathryn, a Friend of Esmont, note date of letter found in wall).

LETTER FROM SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE RE TOUR OF ESMONT

On Sun, Oct 7, 2018 at 6:25 PM Seth McDowell <sm@mcdowellspinosa.com> wrote:
Nick,

Thank you for the introduction to priorities and interests of the Friends of Esmont. The efforts sound very exciting to me and I would like to explore the best way I or others at UVA School of Architecture could help out. Here are some initial thoughts:

1 - In my own design practice which often overlaps teaching efforts at the A-School I am interested in projects of adaptive reuse / material or building recycling / design build. The project we are doing in Scottsville has worked as partial practice project and partial research project at UVA. This allows me to engage a group of select students in more flexible ways than in a structured course. I could imagine structuring a project with Esmont in a similar way and beginning with the projects you have listed as priorities (Rails to Trails and the old depot). In projects like this we would need to do a documentation / research stage and study what the existing conditions are, then could develop design proposals that visualize the next steps. This could go as far as the community would like - could simply be about visualizing or could be about also developing drawings and documents that put the work into action. I spoke with a graduate Research Assistant of mine at UVA and he would be excited about working on something like this with me. He is doing a dual degree in historic preservation and this type of work critical to his path.

2 - Another format that might relate to the projects you describe in Esmont is UVA A-School engaging through a design/build exercise. In past at UVA I have taught design studios that incorporate constructing small structures in the curriculum. I could see an opportunity here to have students build or rehabilitate something. I am currently searching for a project for the next iteration of a graduate design studio I call "The Building Tolerance Studio." In the last version, we built a pavilion on grounds with timber reclaimed from an old farmhouse in Crozet. I could see a project dealing with the rehabilitation of a community structure or a project for a small structure related to the rails to trails path (like changing station or reflection pavilion).

3 - The other format that this brings to mind is an intensive documentation project. It would seem it could be a good exercise to thoroughly document the current village through measured drawings and possibly a virtual model. This might be where Louis Nelson comes in, because he teaches a course in spring that involves history students in field work - measuring and drawing historic structures. I will put you in contact with Louis also to see if he has any thoughts.

This is just a first reaction based on your description. I would like to drive down to Esmont soon to familiarize myself with the conditions. My research assistant and I were contemplating driving by sometime next Tuesday, do you think we could benefit from a visit to Esmont?

Hope this helps,

Seth

Seth McDowell, Asst Prof, UVA School of Architecture

Esmont Tour – Albemarle Housing Improvement Program

Fri, Sep 28, 10:31
AM

Cory

Demchak cory@ahipva.org **via** [netorgft3521340.onmicr](https://netorgft3521340.onmicr.com)
to nrdukesr@gmail.com, peggyturvisdenby@friendsofesmont.com

Good morning Nick and Peggy,

Claire Thompson introduced us by email last week regarding a tour of the Esmont area. I think the tour is a great idea and a number of our staff are interested in seeing and learning more about Esmont as a possible target area for a future Community Development Block Grant application through the county for housing rehab. AHIP will be mounting a community outreach initiative to gauge community need and interest, but a tour as a first step will allow us to see some homes in the area and meet some neighbors living there.

AHIP's annual House Party is this evening and things should be getting back to normal around here in the next few weeks so I wanted to reach out to you both and get the tour scheduled. Next week will still be fairly busy with House Party follow-up so let's look at some time after October 8th.

There have been a few different email correspondences between you both and our staff, but feel free to reach out directly to me as we proceed as I will be coordinating AHIP's efforts. Should I continue to include both of you on communications surrounding Esmont or would one of you prefer to be the point person?

Also, please let me know two or three dates and times that are good for the tour and I can check with our staff to see what suits everyone's schedule.

Thanks,
Cory

Cory Demchak
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MEETING NOTES: Preliminary Trails Ideas

Date: Friday, October 12, 2018

Time: 6:30 am- 8 pm

Attendees:

Location:

Notes by: Anna Boeschstein

Distributed: October 14, 2018

Preliminary Trail Ideas:

1. Connectivity with Cville (and Scottsville?) to increase awareness & assist Southern Albemarle community with economic redevelopment
2. Near term (next five years)
 - a. Bushwhack/ discover/ make our own neighborhood trails
 - b. Map trail locations, potential dirt/quiet road connections
 - c. Research grants
 - d. Make connections
3. Long Term (next 20-years)
 - a. Apply for funding for trail corridor research to move project forward
 - i. Lowe's Grants- recommended by Siri Russell; range from 2k-100k
 - b. CSX property was deeded to (large) landholders whose property line ran through. Smaller parcels remain in CSX hands
4. Partners
 - a. Hikers
 - b. Biking community
 - c. Horseback riders
 - d. Peter Krebbs/ Piedmont Environmental Council Community Outreach;
 - i. Has spoken with Peggy D. and confirmed there are no trails in this area
 - ii. Has a map of trails in Albemarle County. Can we get a copy?
 - iii. Regional Pedestrian/ Bike/ Transportation Open House
 - iv. TJ Planning District Commission Wed. Oct. 17th to review draft bike plan 407 E. Water St.
 - v. Oct. 20th at Castle Hill Farm PEC's annual meeting and workshop on bike/ped connectivity \$25-35/pp; who can go? (ASLA conference that weekend); Tickets on PEC website
 - e. Siri Russell/ Albemarle County liason
5. Precedents
 - a. Riverview Park Trail- started as a couple people cutting a trail.
 - b. John Conover, founder of Riverview Park Trail
 - i. Use dirt road connections & begin to gain awareness and bike/ ped traffic
 - ii. Virginia trespassing laws- must be asked to leave first.
 - iii. Trails have become a public right of way across private property
 - c. High Bridge Trail; Farmville, VA
 - d. Blue Ridge Railway Trail; Nelson Co., VA
 - i. President is Janet Hunter and willing to talk/help: hunter.ja.g@gmail.com
 - ii. Steve Martin (started trail with his wife Popie): stormyscm@gmail.com
 1. Peggy email: Popie wrote and received "TE grant money" to replace/repair 5 railroad tressles (what is TE grant money?)
 2. Worked with Sierra Club and AT Trail Club for funding and installation
 - e. Rio Grande Trail Aspen-Woody Creek-Basalt- Glenwood Springs, CO
6. Abandoned rail line connections
 - a. Trestles on Fry's Path & Esmont Rd
 - b. Trestle on Van Clief property
 - c. Trestle at Rin Ran

7. Greenspace connections
 - a. Fulfillment Farm
 - b. Quarry Gardens at Schuyler
 - c. Schuyler/ Esmont Quarries
 - d. Biscuit Run
 - e. Walnut Creek
 - f. Monticello Trails- Saunders Trail & Secluded Farm
 - g. Schools- Red Hill
 - h. Yancey
 - i. UVa Polo Center
 - j. Utility corridors
 - k. Flood plains/Rt. 20 at Red Hill stream corridor
 - l. Wineries
 - i. First Colony
 - ii. Michael Schapps
 - iii. Blenheim
 - iv. Trump
 - v. Jefferson
 - vi. Gabrielle Rouse
8. Road connections
 - a. Green Mountain Rd
 - b. Fry's Path
 - c. Esmont Rd

These minutes should be considered a fair and accurate record of this meeting unless Grounded is notified in writing of any corrections within three days from the date of issuance of these notes.

From: **Kitty Clerico**

Date: Wed, Oct 10, 2018 at 3:31 PM

Subject: A Picture

To: Peggy Denby

Hi Peggy,

I am sending you a picture of the house in Esmont where my family lived when I was growing up.

The property belonged to Burton Mahone son of W.O. Mahone who inherited the house and approx. three acres of land from an old maid aunt. When the house was being remodel a letter was found behind a wall that was dated 1865.

At one time there was an old cookhouse which my father had moved so he could use it as a garage. The last time I was in Esmont the house was still standing. The resident at that time was kind enough to let me walk through the house bringing back a lifetime of memories.

Kathryn

