

**STAFF REPORT**  
**for**  
**February 5, 2020 HRC MEETING**

**Case #:** COA2020-006  
**Staff:** Michelle M. McCullough

**Applicant:** Samantha Smith

**LOCATION**

District: Bethabara Historic District  
Street: 2147 Bethabara Road  
Buildings: The Palisade, the Foundations, and the Village  
Local Historic Landmarks#: N/A

**REQUEST(S)**

- Installation of outdoor interpretive signs

**APPLICABLE SECTIONS OF DESIGN REVIEW GUIDELINES**

*Bethabara Historic District Guide to the Certificate of Appropriateness (COA) Process and Design Review Guidelines*

**(Please refer to the applicable sections of the *Guidelines*, as detailed in the staff comments.)**

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION/ELEMENTS**

*Please refer to the information provided with the application.*

**STAFF COMMENTS**

The District Guidelines address historic signage and new signage that relates to the use of the building. This application is for educational, interpretive signage to assist visitors in their experience in the District. The model for the signage is taken from the National Park Service's interpretive signage examples.

**STAFF FINDINGS**

Commission staff finds that the work is not incongruous with the character of the Bethabara Historic District because:

- 1) The new signage will be 24" high x 36" wide, constructed of a black, textured, powder-coated metal pedestal with a six square foot, single sided, ½" matte finish laminated panel that is compatible with the District in terms of style, time period, materials, design, scale, and color. (*Signage*, Bethabara Guideline 2)
- 2) The new signage will replace existing signage and will be in an appropriate location that does not diminish or compromise the historic character of the District. The locations are not obtrusive and do not cover large portions of a building façade, any significant architectural features or block streetscape views. (*Signage*, Bethabara Guideline 4)
- 3) The new signage is not attached to a building; it is installed into the ground and is removable. (*Signage*, Bethabara Guideline 5)

**STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

Based on the preceding findings, staff recommends that the Commission approve COA2020-006 at the

Palisade, the Foundations, and the Village, located at 2147 Bethabara Road, within the Bethabara Historic District (PIN# 6817-67-4983.00), with the following conditions:

- 1) The applicant shall receive, prior to commencement of the work, all other required permits or permissions from governmental agencies;
- 2) Commission staff shall review and approve any revisions or deviations to any portion of the as-submitted work, that qualifies as a minor work, prior to commencement of that portion of the project; and
- 3) The applicant shall submit the Certificate of Appropriateness Request for Certification of Completed Work form and photo documentation of the completed project to HRC staff within ten (10) days of its completion.