

Southeastern Archaeological Conference  
Meeting of the Executive Committee – Colonial Williamsburg proposal  
28 September 2022

In (remote) attendance: Maureen Meyers, Patrick Livingood, Carol Colaninno, Lindsay Bloch, Asa Randall, Kandi Hollenbach, Meg Kassabaum, Rob Beck, Ben Steere, Autumn Melby, Ramie Gougeon

With: Janene Johnston, Patrick Johnson, Mary Minkoff

[R Gougeon, reporting]

President Meyers opened the meeting with introductions of Johnston, Johnson, and Minkoff, and acknowledged other members of the team not in attendance (Jack Gary and Bernard Means). In short, Colonial Williamsburg has been approached about being a host of the 2024 annual conference. Patrick Johnson ran through some of the primary costs of concern to the SEAC EC and membership alike. Rooms at the main lodge at Colonial Williamsburg will cost \$239 a night and come with parking, wifi, shuttles to events, and entry into the Colonial Williamsburg site. The lodge has a conference center with meeting rooms/spaces large enough for our typical number of sessions, workshops, panels, meetings, and the like. Several less expensive hotels are being considered as “spill over” hotels; they are approximately a mile away. The organizers are putting together several tours and workshops. The list of likely destinations currently includes Jamestowne and Werewocomoco, and further afield - Shockoe Bottom, Montpelier, or even Monticello.

The nearest airports include a small regional hub at Newport News and the larger airports at Richmond and Norfolk. There is also access via Amtrak.

SAC representative Melby noted that these estimates are higher than the typical SEAC annual meeting and may prove too costly for some students to attend. She encouraged the EC to work with the SAC to make resources and volunteer opportunities available to student members as early as possible.

Local and regional archaeological societies are being approached about participating in our annual meeting, which may help us meet room reservation minimums and also hit a somewhat larger-than-average food minimum cost (\$60k).

The organizers have secured a “soft-hold” on our reservation until the end of September. The contract will require legal review. Janene Johnston agreed to ask Colonial Williamsburg how much time we may have before we have to sign a contract, as well as get the estimates for any deposits and when they may be due.

The EC voted digitally (via direct message to Gougeon) and unanimously to charge the organizers with continuing these discussions with Colonial Williamsburg.