

Speakers urge Confederate monuments be left at Capitol

The Associated Press

RALEIGH — A Vietnam veteran brought up a name from the past, “Hanoi Jane,” as he spoke in favor of keeping three Confederate monuments on North Carolina’s Capitol grounds. Some of those who want the monuments moved described Confederates as traitors, bringing some stifled “boos” from the crowd.

But that was as raucous as the March 21 public meeting got as about 60 people addressed a committee that will make the first of what’s likely to be several recommendations about whether to move the monuments from the Capitol grounds to Bentonville Battlefield, a Civil War site about 50

miles (80 kilometers) from Raleigh.

When a society starts moving monuments, “the question must be asked: Where does it stop? What is the criteria for doing that?” asked Boyd Cathey of Wendell, the former state registrar.

Speakers were addressing a five-member committee of the state Historical Commission. The panel plans to report on the proposal next month to the full state commission, which makes the decision on Gov. Roy Cooper’s proposal to move the monuments to the Bentonville battlefield site in Johnston County.

The monuments include the 75-foot (22-meter) monument completed in 1895

to the state’s Confederate dead. The others are the North Carolina Women of the Confederacy Monument, dedicated in 1914, and the statue of Henry Lawson Wyatt, dedicated in 1912. Wyatt is described on the statue’s base as the first Confederate soldier killed in action during the Civil War.

Cooper requested that the statues be moved after two events: a violent rally in Charlottesville, Virginia, and the toppling of a Confederate statue outside a Durham County government building by demonstrators. But a 2015 state law approved by the Republican-controlled General Assembly prevents the permanent removal of most Confederate monuments

on state and local property without legislative approval. It also severely limits their relocation.

Dennis Johnson of Willow Spring said it’s stupid to move the monuments. “I can’t believe we’ve got a governor that would even consider that,” he said. “It’s not just wrong. It’s against the law.”

After his 60 seconds of speaking time elapsed, Richard Foy of Raleigh continued talking and was directed back to his seat. As he walked, the Vietnam veteran continued talking, mentioning “Hanoi Jane,” a reference to actress Jane Fonda’s controversial visit with the North Vietnamese during the Vietnam War. He also spoke about Russia’s

Vladimir Putin, dysfunctional politicians and others.

He was followed by Emily Keel of Robersonville, the 14th speaker, who was the first to support moving the monuments.

The Civil War monuments “are relics of another time,” she said. “What we display now to the public should be our current principles and aspirations of North Carolina citizens.”

She said she initially wanted the monuments destroyed, but now believes they should be moved “so their context can be explained and so that we can learn from history.”

The last few speakers came out most stridently for the move — or removal — of the monuments, in-

cluding Joanne Clayton, the daughter of former U.S. Rep. Eva Clayton.

Everyone knows slavery was wrong, she said. “And they want to be proud of ancestors’ fairy tales about the Confederacy,” she said. “The reality is slavery was wrong. The Confederates were traitors. And we have statues to traitors that need to be removed.”

Fewer people signed up to speak than expected, and the comments ended an hour earlier than schedule. That could be because people have had a chance to give their opinions online, where committee chair David Ruffin said more than 4,300 comments have been posted about moving the three monuments.

CRIMEWATCH

EDENTON POLICE DEPARTMENT ARRESTS

■ March 20 — Javon Raheem Johnson, 31, of West Church Street, was charged with one count of communicating threats.

■ March 19 — Deandre Keithale Copeland Jr., 19, of Badham Road, was arrested on one misdemeanor count of driving left of center and one misdemeanor count of no operator’s license.

■ March 19 — Christo-

pher Mark Talmadge, 23, of Goosie Lane, Hertford, was arrested on one misdemeanor count of failure to appear.

■ March 19 — Taylor Elaina Jethro, 25, of Macedonia Road, was charged with one felony count of assault with a deadly weapon inflicting serious injury.

■ March 19 — Kenan Avery White, 30, of Old Merry Hill Road, was charged with one misdemeanor count of assault and battery.

■ March 17 — Yolanda

Yvette Tann, 42, of Hawthorne Road, was charged with one misdemeanor count of failure to deliver title.

■ March 16 — Alexandria Sarah-Emily Johnson, 38, of North Broad Street, was charged with one misdemeanor count of discharging a firearm in the town limits.

■ March 16 — Robert Lee Copeland Jr., 42, of Bridgetowne Avenue, was issued a criminal summons

on one misdemeanor count of hit and run.

■ March 15 — Marcia Jenean Perry, 43, of Cisco Road, was arrested on one misdemeanor count of failure to appear.

■ March 15 — David Theodore Chappell Sr., 69, of Jordan Loop Road, was charged with one felony count of possession of a Schedule I controlled substance.

■ March 15 — Taylor Elaina Jethro, 25, of Mace-

donia Road, was charged with one misdemeanor count of assault and one misdemeanor count of possession of drug paraphernalia.

INCIDENTS

■ March 22 — Breaking and entering and larceny from a motor vehicle on Morris Circle.

■ March 19 — Assault with a deadly weapon inflicting serious injury at the corner of Tyler Lane and Coke Avenue.

■ March 19 — Breaking and entering on Boswell Street

■ March 16 — Larceny at Duck Thru on Virginia Road.

CHOWAN COUNTY SHERIFF’S OFFICE ARRESTS

■ None reported.

INCIDENTS

■ March 14 — Larceny (taking mail from mailbox) on Cisco Road.

■ March 9 — Lost dealer license plate at M&M Auto on Virginia Road.

LAND

Continued from 1A

the population,” Knighton wrote recently in her memo to Town Council.

“We would include the ECP’s feasibility study that supports investment for a senior living housing development and the efforts to recruit a developer for that project; the town’s strategic communications/marketing to recruit residents, families, retirees, mobile workers and entrepreneurs,” Knighton wrote.

Also included, Knighton said, should be “the county’s investment in the (local) campus of the College of the Albemarle, the partnership between the school system and COA, the county’s partnership with the Boys and Girls Club; the community acquisition of the downtown movie theater; Destination Downtown Edenton’s report in cumulative investment in downtown properties; the resurgence of the Chowan Arts Council and the public library; the Tourism Development Authority’s successes with earned media supporting as a travel destination; the recent major industrial expansions, and more.”

Tabling adoption of the

proposed plan, Knighton advised, would “give us and the consultant time to draft amended language and seek out alternative viable population projections.”

Isher-Witt acknowledged the findings used in the plan, based on state and census data, had alarmed local officials as it appears to show the population locally in a “crashing” mode in the years ahead.

“Folks are concerned it could send the wrong message,” she said.

Just a few citizens showed up at the public hearing held at the start of the joint session. Among them was Bob Kirby, a civil engineer with experience in planning. Kirby questioned the findings concerning projected population growth, pointing to a northeast region population projection study prepared for Gates County that looked at population trends there and in other area counties, including Chowan, for the years 2015 through 2045 at five-year intervals as required by CAMA.

According to those figures in 2015, Chowan County had a population of 14,670 and in 2045 is projected to have 14,667 citizens, for a minor drop in population of minus 0.02 percent.

“I like those figures a lot



MILES LAYTON/CHOWAN HERALD

Town Planner Elizabeth Bryant talks to the Chowan County Commission and Town Council on Monday about a proposed updated 2018 Coast Area Management Act Land Use Plan.

better,” Kirby said.

Local businessman Larry McLaughlin pointed to such variables as the eventual creation of interstate highway I-87 and said “it’s hard to predict” what their impact might be.

McLaughlin suggested a laundry list of corrections and clarifications from the report that need to be addressed ranging from bridges to sidewalks. He noted how there was very little mentioned in the plan about solar and wind farms. McLaughlin noted the plan’s reference to utilities may be incompatible with the county’s rural character.

McLaughlin said urban planners have been forecasting for years that people would move from the inner cities to the suburbs. However, McLaughlin said, many young adults and families these days seek to

live in cities, something few predicted 20 years ago. In time, McLaughlin predicts that folks may decide to break free of the city living to return the country, thus making the point that past and current population trends may not necessarily apply in the future.

Jerry Climer talked about how difficult it is to predict a community’s population at the end of such a long stretch of time as CAMA is requiring.

Climer, pointing to the “volatility” of data used in preparing such documents cited comments by ESRI, one of America’s biggest private demographic analysts, that warned against reliance on estimates in its online Methodology White Paper.

“Measuring demographic characteristics is more challenging since 2010,”

the paper explained. “Census 2010 was a game changer in the development of small area data because it collected no sample data — variables like income, education, employment, home value and marital status. The American Community Survey is the replacement for sample data. The differences between it and the census sample are significant.”

“Census sample surveys were collected during the decennial censuses,” the paper went on to say. “The sample sizes were large enough to provide a solid base and to represent a single point in time, April 1. ACS sample sizes are much smaller than a census survey taken once every 10 years. To represent the smallest sample areas — block groups — data must be collected over 60 months. Even one-year ACS data is actually a 12-month average rather than a single point in time, April 1. The American Commu-

nity Survey represents period estimates with a series of monthly surveys whose collective sample size is still less than the sample from the last census sample survey, in 2000.”

Climer said negative data affects decisions ahead from public planners, investors, families and Town/County officials, so he urged caution when compiling and preparing this report.

“If this data exists as a confirmed public policy document — we’re out trying to recruit grocery stores and industrial places — they’re not going to be very interested in a community that has itself proclaimed that it is declining,” said Climer, who once advised Congress as to statistics as they relate to planning.

An analogy of predicting what day and when deep it will snow 50 years from now seems applicable to how Climer took aim time and again at the statistics and forecasting methods.

“My point is that this is creating so much uncertainty that it seems to me that the only reliable way that this document can be presented would be to go back to the two previous decennial census figures maybe even further — I have no idea whether CAMA will have a heart attack over that suggestion or not,” he said. “I would say that the 2017 data shown is a whole lot different than 2015 and from previous years. There’s an enormous amount of volatility in this data. This is relevant to the future of this community.”

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Board and Commission Vacancies

Chowan County residents who are interested in being appointed to fill upcoming vacancies on various boards and committees are encouraged to fill out an application. The Chowan County Board of Commissioners appoint representatives to local and regional committees, boards, commissions and authorities.

Chowan County Nursing Home Advisory Board

- Chowan County Planning Board

Applications are being considered for Area “B” at this time

Chowan County Board of Adjustment

There are currently three vacancies, two of these vacancies are “alternate” seats. This Board is NOT assigned by districts at this time.



Applications are available at the Chowan County Managers Office or online. For more information, contact

Susanne Stallings, County Clerk (252) 482-8431 x 1 or email susanne.stallings@chowan.nc.gov

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