

STAFFORD COUNTY
HISTORICAL COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
THURSDAY - APRIL 7, 2011

The Stafford County Historical Commission held its regular monthly meeting Thursday, April 7, 2011, in Conference Room ABC, Government Center, 1300 Courthouse Road. The meeting was called to order at 3:10 PM by Anita Dodd.

ROLL CALL

<u>MEMBERS</u>	<u>PRESENT</u>	<u>ABSENT</u>	<u>STAFF</u>
Anita Dodd - Chair	P		Terry Baxley Morton - Commission Clerk
Ann Best-Rolls - Vice Chair	P		Ed Keasler - Transportation Project Manager
Barbara Kirby - Secretary	P		Public Works
Cessie Howell	P		
Jane Conner	P		
David Rodriguez MD	P		
Frank White		A	

PRESENTATIONS BY PUBLIC - None.

NEW BUSINESS

- "Your Vision, Our Future: the George Washington Region Scenario Planning Study" - FAMPO (Fredericksburg Area Metropolitan Planning Organization) / GWRC (George Washington Regional Commission) - Presentation & Discussion. By Danny Reese, Regional Planner, GWRC

- The agency is responsible for regional transportation planning projects. Local municipalities have planning projects for their area.
- GWRC provides the LRTP (Long Range Transportation Plan). The previous plan forecasted to the year 2035. The plan forecasts funding and all aspects of transportation. The plan meets LOS (level of service) for traffic congestion etc. The agency receives \$2 M to \$3 M annually from the federal government. The plan requires \$10 B up to 2035 to construct and plan all the transportation infrastructure improvement projects and new transportation construction projects in the area. GWRC staff was able to develop an affordable constraining plan. They may receive \$3 M worth of regional surface transportation planning funds and CMAQ (Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality) funds, they will only get up to \$2 B in funds by 2035. The report shows local jurisdictions that from a land use plan they can reduce transportation costs.
- The GWRC's relationship with VDOT is VDOT maintains all state roads but does not receive much direct federal funding. Most federal funding comes through FAMPO. FAMPO is federally mandated in metropolitan areas that have over 50,000 inhabits. GWRC/FAMPO has been in existence since 1992. Not all projects in both agencies plans will come to fruition.
- The agency also conducts green initiative planning with environmental awareness.
- The agency holds public forums for public input regarding its plans. Commission members were given copies of the prior two reports.

- Ed Keasler answered questions by Commission members regarding current road projects in the County.

- Ann Best-Rolls explained the agency as being one to educate, raise awareness on smart growth but not to have the authority to enforce ideas, it can enlighten, educate and inform.

- The Commission requested the Transportation Division of the Public Works Department to keep them abreast of the Roseville Post Office building located on Mountain View Road that will be hindered by a road improvement project.
- The Commission discussed ways of keeping the public informed of public meetings regarding projects etc. The County currently posts the information on its web-site, runs public ads in the newspaper, and sometimes posts the information on the Government Center door. Depending on the importance and residents being directly affected, letters are sometimes sent. There was a suggestion to contact the individual subdivision HOAs (homeowners associations). The Transportation Division notifies schools and student transportation when a project will have an effect on the area. Some of the Board of Supervisors members send out a monthly newsletter in their district containing similar information.

- Bell's Farm - Moncure Estates Signage.

- The Commission discussed the fact that subdivisions generally have property management firms with a designated staff person that oversees the HOAs and the importance of sending letters cc regarding any historical preservation issues in their area. The property management representative can make sure the president of the HOA receives the letter.
- HOAs need to be informed of any maintenance involved in cultural resource items such as signage in its area.
- The need to adopt a preservation ordinance was reiterated to protect cultural resources in developments. Currently the County can only make recommendations without enforcement. Phase 2 of the ordinance would allow for mitigation.
- VDOT is requesting an amendment to the MOA (memorandum of agreement).
- It appeared as though the MOA required the developer to compile a report including every farm in the County. It appears as though VHR (Virginia Historic Resources) is stating that is not necessary that the report only needs to include farms in the general area of the project.
- A request was made to provide recordation's and pictures of houses that were fairly recently demolished that were cultural resources to include in a presentation for the Board of Supervisors. The importance of revisiting a proposed Phase 2 ordinance in conjunction with the presentation was reiterated.
- Every cultural resource within a project has been eliminated in the past few years with the exception of cemeteries providing evidence that the cemetery ordinance is very effective.
- Currently the only way a building may be saved is when federal and state funds are used and Section 106 is applied. It is not guaranteed but does provide for mitigation with developers. An adopted preservation ordinance would provide allowance for preservation on the County level.
- Unfortunately, often when a developer purchases property there is a house located in the middle and presents a planning issue because an 1890 house in the middle of a subdivision is not desirable to them.
- The proposed ordinance would allow developers to be approached at the time of site plan. Perhaps the building in question could be used as a community center etc. Currently developers are approached after the site plan stage which is too late.

- Reconnaissance Archeological, Architectural and Archival Investigations on the Westlake Residential Development Stafford County Virginia – Discussion.

- The report states the cultural resource found on the property is not eligible for NHS (National Historical Registry), which alleviates need for any further studies; however, there is a cemetery in the report. Anita Dodd wants to look further into the report. She will e-mail Commission members later with her comments.

- Stafford County Annual Historic Preservation Award Nominations - Discussion and Preparation.

- Awards ceremony and reception May 17, 2011.
- Volunteer - Jim Padgett - Compiled 527 volumes of letters from the Civil War - Volunteers at Chatham - description to be written by Jane Conner
- Volunteer - Barbara Flack - Cleaning up, maintaining and recordations of cemeteries - Cemetery Committee - description to be written by Jane Conner.
- Homeowner - William Shelton III - Preserved a 1800s log cabin - description to be written by Cessie Howell.
- Historic Research - Al Conner - description to be written by Jane Conner.
- Landscape - Girl Scouts Troop 753 - Ongoing Cemetery care - Burton Family Cemetery #2 - description to be written by Anita Dodd.
- Landscape - Boy Scouts Troop 1425 - Ongoing Cemetery care - Musselman Family & Black Family Cemeteries - description to be written by Anita Dodd.
- Preservation - Beate Jensen - Fannie Roots House - description to be written by Barbara Kirby.

The Commission previously ear-marked revenue in its budget for covering the costs of a series of books on different time periods of Stafford County history. It had discussed hiring an individual to complete this project and/or locate an individual working on their doctorate.

- Invitations, awards and the reception were discussed.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 5:05 PM.