

*STAFFORD COUNTY
HISTORICAL COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
THURSDAY - JUNE 2, 2011*

The Stafford County Historical Commission held its regular monthly meeting Thursday, June 2, 2011, in Conference Room ABC, Government Center; 1300 Courthouse Road. The meeting was called to order at 3:20 PM by Anita Dodd.

ROLL CALL

MEMBERS

PRESENT

ABSENT

STAFF

Anita Dodd - Chair

P

Kathy Baker - Assistant Director - Planning & Zoning

Ann Best-Rolls - Vice Chair

P

Terry Baxley Morton - Commission Clerk

Barbara Kirby - Secretary

P

Jane Conner

A

David Rodriguez MD

P

Frank White

P

PRESENTATIONS BY PUBLIC - None.

NEW BUSINESS

- Falmouth Intersection - Update.

- The Phase 2 Report for the worker's cottages along Butler Road and the Glover store on the corner to be removed is available.
- The report did not include measured drawings of the buildings.
- A Phase 3 Report is not necessary.
- There is a stipulation for further findings requiring proper procedures in the programmatic agreement.
- The Commission requested staff to find out who will attend the demolitions.
- VDOT is planning to purchase the rights-of-way in the fall for the improvements.

Phase 1 is an archeological study that sometimes includes an architectural element, basically it's a way to identify sites within a project area, it's not an intensive study but it's a way to identify artifact clusters which identify sites, so you can identify what's in a project area. A Phase 1 consists of shovel test kits, basically a post hole in the ground if it is a site culturally, artifacts will be left behind, so you can identify sites in that way. The archeologist then determines if the sites found are eligible for the National Register. Will the sites provide more information or have the potential to provide more information than the Phase 1? If the site has the potential then a Phase 2 is done, a more extensive study on just the sites that were deemed potentially eligible. A much larger site is opened to analyze for a Phase 2. A Phase 1 shows potential, a Phase 2 shows if it's eligible or not for the National Register at that point litigation takes place to try to avoid the particular site in the construction. If not, then a Phase 3 is conducted which basically the whole site is excavated and all the information the site can provide is gathered. The whole process only takes place if the site is a Section 106, a portion of the historic preservation act. Only if there are federal monies involved with the project.

- Friends of Stafford Civil War Sites (FSCWS) - Phase 1 Archeological Study.

- A Phase 1 was conducted on the sites that were previously identified.
- The Phase 1 was conducted on a 50 foot wide road - only the road-bed portion of Old Potomac Church Road.
- Old Potomac Church Road is eligible for the National Register.

- VDHR (Virginia Department of Historic Resources) signed off on the study.
- The Historical Commission should be a consulting party in the project, as a Section 106 project that is afforded to an interested party. A consulting party receives all information regarding the project and is able to comment on it.
- There are time constraints in preparing for the National Guard to build the road.
- The Commission receives Archeological Phase reports on a regular basis about various projects and it is its responsibility to comment on them. There is nothing requiring people that handle the projects to follow the Commission’s recommendations, hence their goal of having a Phase 1 ordinance adopted. The ordinance would require developers to provide a Phase 1 Archeological study on property that is known to be historic.
- The Commission would have preferred having a Phase 1 conducted over the entire property.
- Anita Dodd said she will draft a letter to send to FSCWS and e-mail it to Commission members and upon their responses, apply changes and County staff will send it.

The Commission unanimously approved sending a letter to FSCWS with its comments on the Phase 1 study with a cc to the National Guard, the Army Corps of Engineers, the ARB and various County staff members.

REPORTS BY COMMISSION MEMBERS

- Frank White

- VDHR announced Sherwood Forest will be included on the Endangered List. The Commission decided to craft a letter in support of Sherwood Forest, offering its help any way it can for example background information.
- Kathy Baker said the investors are not making plans any time soon, perhaps even in ten years. She doesn’t think they have plans for rehabilitation or stabilization due to deterioration. She suggested asking if there are any proposals for securing the building.
- Frank White said the Mingles Hill Bridge is almost complete.
- Frank White said the Historic Awards Ceremony and Reception went very well and thanked everyone involved for their efforts.
- Anita Dodd said she thought it was the best awards ceremony yet, due to the turn-out of people and the Scouts that were involved, among other reasons.

- Ann Best-Rolls mentioned a capped spring on US-1 near South Gate. Kathy Baker thought the spring was already graded over. It did not fall under RPA because it was vested to pre Chesapeake Bay Act standards.

- Anita Dodd said there is a building of interest near the spring. The building was a church converted to a house on Coe Lane off Truslow Road. She said she has been trying to get permission to go inside the building for documentaton.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 4:20 PM.

Anita Dodd - Commission Chair

Barbara Kirby - Commission Secretary