

STAFFORD COUNTY  
HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
THURSDAY - NOVEMBER 3, 2011

The Stafford County Historical Commission held its regular monthly meeting, Thursday, November 3, 2011, in Conference Room ABC, Government Center; 1300 Courthouse Road. The meeting was called to order at 3:07 PM by Anita Dodd.

*ROLL CALL*

<u>MEMBERS</u>	<u>PRESENT</u>	<u>ABSENT</u>	<u>STAFF</u>
Anita Dodd - Chair	P		Kathy Baker - Assistant Director - Planning & Zoning
Ann Best-Rolls - Vice Chair		A	Terry Baxley Morton - Commission Clerk
Barbara Kirby - Secretary	P		
Richard Chichester	P		
Jane Conner	P		
David Rodriguez MD	P		
Frank White	P		

*APPROVAL OF COMMISSION MINUTES*

- The Commission unanimously approved the July 7, 2011 meeting minutes with a minor correction.

Stafford County Civil War Park - Management Plan.

- The Commission decided to defer this item until the park is completed.
- Anita Dodd said she wants to go on record as stating she does not agree. She believes the management plan should have been written and approved from the beginning.
- The Commission rescheduled a time and date to tour the park.
  
- The Commission unanimously approved inviting John Hennessey, Historian, National Park Service, to its next meeting to discuss park management plans.
  
- The Commission had hoped to set up a meeting through Clark Leming's Attorney office to speak with the owners of Sherwood Forest. The Commission has not been able to collect any details at this point.

Historic Preservation Award Process.

- Anita Dodd asked Jane Conner and Barbara Kirby of the sub-committee for an update. Barbara Kirby said she wants to review and update the letter from last year for requesting nominees from various organizations involved in preservation. The letter will not need to include information about a committee meeting. The Commission decided not to hold an additional meeting regarding information submitted about nominees.
- It was decided to make the cut-off date for submitting nominations as March 15, 2012.
- The Commission reminded everyone that the awards are usually given at the Board's second meeting in May along with a small reception. The Commission Clerk will e-mail the Board's Clerk to tentatively place the awards on the Board's agenda.
- The Commission decided to mail the letters regarding nominations to the nine preservation organizations on February 3, 2012, particularly since most only meet once a month.

Proposed Ordinance O06-47 dated July 18, 2006.

- The Commission discussed waiting until the first of the year after the November elections.
- Kathy Baker said the Commission may want to attend a Board meeting with a presentation on the subject as opposed to continue having one Board member at a time at its meetings.
- Barbara Kirby said perhaps the Commission could attend one of the Board's work sessions.

- Barbara Kirby said it would be a good idea to submit a list with all the pieces of history that have been lost over the years due to development and lack of preservation. A recent example is Chestnut Hill.
- The Commission agreed.
- Anita Dodd said it has been suggested over the years that developers start a “pot” to help pay for stabilizing structures until they can be preserved or recorded.

#### *REPORT BY COMMISSION CHAIR*

- Kathy Baker gave the Commission a problematic agreement between Quantico Marine Corps Base and the County that was just received. Signees included: VDHR (Virginia Department of Historic Resources), ACHP (Advisory Council on Historic Preservation), U.S. Department of the Navy, the Marine Corps and the County. The agreement deals with how Quantico handles all historic cultural resources on the base.
- Anita Dodd said as a federal agency the base must have a Phase 1 survey. If cultural resources are discovered, the agreement mitigates what steps are taken from there. Receiving copies of any surveys and information related is most important. The agreement is actually amazing because it encompasses the entire base for an unlimited amount of time. The base has recorded farmsteads that were on the property and a cemetery. The base has an archeologist on staff. Anita Dodd spoke with him a couple years ago. He was in the process of digitizing the reports. The base archeologist said he would provide the Commission with copies. Most of the signees of the agreement are preservation entities. The base will not have to present a document each time a resource is handled. The document presented covers all cultural resources on the entire base.
- Kathy Baker said she will send the agreement to the County Attorney. The base has put a lot of time and money into the agreement with directives.

The Commission approved unanimously to sign the Cultural Resources Problematic Agreement between Stafford County and Quantico Marine Corps Base.

- Anita Dodd said she was recently alerted of a bull-dozer beside the small red church in Falmouth that was historically for Black People on US-1. Someone has purchased the building. She said she fears the building will be demolished. She asked the County to flag the building for application of a demolition permit. She hopes to be able to properly record the building before it is demolished. She has not been able to go inside the building.

#### *REPORTS BY COMMISSION MEMBERS*

- Barbara Kirby said recently a newspaper article explained Hartwood Presbyterian Church windows were replaced. The church did not apply for a COA permit therefore, the ARB was not aware of the situation. The Commission was concerned about the preservation of the church.
- Jane Conner said it was funded with money from the Stewart Jones PhD estate that was designated for such repairs.
- Anita Dodd said she was working with the cemetery when the windows were under construction. The work was done by a reputable restoration company. The floor joists were repaired as well. Fortunately the work was done properly. The ARB may not have been contacted because people with historic buildings may not realize it is a requirement. Anita Dodd mentioned sending a form letter to inform those that have buildings in a historic district of certain criteria. The article explained the church would not have held up as well from the recent earth quake had the improvements not been completed.
- Barbara Kirby reviewed some of the items the ARB can cover when people inquire with it for suggestions and criteria.
- Kathy Baker said the sidewalk improvements in Falmouth along Washington and Cambridge Streets connecting to the bike trail are now under construction. The ARB is going to review the material and consider a material and color similar to those used at Belmont.
- Kathy Baker said the owner of Amy’s Café in Falmouth will go before the ARB to possibly replace its windows.
- Anita Dodd asked Kathy Baker if sidewalks were to be installed across the street from the Courthouse. She said eventually. The Streetscape proposes to widen the sidewalks, make them more attractive, and eventually plant trees on

both sides of US-1 and Courthouse Road, and between Hope Road and the hospital, and basically Stafford Avenue to Jason Mooney Drive. The County is currently beginning with County owned property only.

- Terry Baxley Morton showed members a book received from Frank Meeuwisse in Boynton Beach, Florida. He had the book for 45 years. He originally found it in New York. He included a short note about his history with the book. The book is entitled the Overwharton Parish Register, Virginia, 1720 - 1760 by William F. Boogher. The book contains a picture of Aquia Church. The book was printed in 1899. The gentleman was generous to give it to the County. The Overwharton Parish has been the historical Aquia Church for years in Stafford County.
- Jane Conner said the Discovery Day activities all day and the Armanica Glass Instrument Show that evening at Aquia Church on Saturday was wonderful. Participants were dressed in Colonial attire.
- Barbara Kirby said the Potomac Indians are having their first craft show at a local fire station this coming Saturday.

*ADJOURNMENT*

The meeting adjourned at 4:30 PM.

Anita Dodd - Commission Chair

Barbara Kirby - Commission Secretary