

STAFFORD COUNTY
HISTORICAL COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
JANUARY 3, 2013

CALL TO ORDER

Type Meeting	Date	Day	Time	Location	By
Annual	January 3, 2013	Thursday	3:05 PM	ABC Conference Room	Anita Dodd - Chairperson

ROLL CALL

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT

Members	Present	Absent	Staff	Title	Department
Ann Best-Rolls		✓	Kathy Baker	Assistant Director	Planning & Zoning
Richard Chichester	✓		Terry Baxley Morton	Commission Clerk	
Jane Conner		✓	John Harbin	Environmental Planner	Planning & Zoning
Anita Dodd	✓				
Barbara Kirby	✓				
Ken Pitts	✓				
David Rodriguez ^{MD}	✓				

ORGANIZE COMMISSION

Topic: Election of Officers for 2013.

Results:

- Barbara Kirby nominated Anita Dodd for Chair. Richard Chichester seconded the nomination.
The motion carried 5 Yes - 2 Absent.
- Barbara Kirby nominated Jane Conner for Vice Chair. Seconded by Richard Chichester.
The motion carried 5 Yes - 2 Absent.
- David Rodriguez nominated Barbara Kirby for Secretary. Seconded by Richard Chichester.
The motion carried 5 Yes - 2 Absent.

Topic: By-Laws for 2013 - Review.

Results: The Historical Commission chose to implement the current By-Laws in 2013 with no changes.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Topic: 2012 Annual Historic Preservation Awards.

Information:

- Each year letters requesting nominations from the ARB (Architectural Review Board), Historical Society, Cemetery Committee, Cultural Resources, Inc., Dovetail Cultural Resources, Inc., FABA (Fredericksburg Area Builders Association), FSCWS (Friends of Stafford Civil War Sites), Moncure Conway Foundation, and the Planning Commission are sent out in February.
- The request letter asks for nominations to be submitted by the end of March. Decisions are made during the month of April. The awards are presented at one of the two Board of Supervisors meetings in May.
- The Commission discussed nominating Glenn Trimmer and Friends of Stafford Civil War Sites Committee. The Committee discussed nominating Frank White, a former Commission member, for various accomplishments and presentations.

Action: The Chair asked the Commission to review information on categories considered and chosen in the past. The Clerk will provide a draft version of the nomination letter.

Topic: Falmouth National Register Nomination - Revision - Update.

Information:

- Kathy Baker has met with VDHR and VDOT. VDHR suggested coming down West Cambridge past Amy's Café on the right into the curb, possibly having some type over-look onto the river and a statue or monument of some type.

This would be a nice tourist photo op. VDHR suggested perhaps having a local contest for design of a statue etc. for the over-look. The process would bring additional recognition. Lynn Knight with MAI has been holding individual stake-holder interviews.

- Kathy Baker e-mailed the Commission the revised register nomination, for review, the second week in December.

Action: The ARB will be reviewing the register nomination for possible additional changes. Staff will keep the Commission advised.

Topic: Preservation Planner - Discussion.

Discussion: Commission Comments

- concerned that other positions are filled in the County but not a Preservation Planner
- feel without a Preservation Planner a preservation ordinance is going nowhere
- possibly getting a preservation staff member for Tourism as tourism is a strong priority with the County
- the recent Civil War re-enactments in Fredericksburg and how it brought high tourism dollars to all local areas
- reiterated not being very vocal, particularly to the individual Board of Supervisors - having individual Supervisors attend Commission meetings for the members to request a Preservation Planner has not seemed to make a difference
- possibly a Commission member attending each Board meeting to request a Preservation Planner
- negative results occur when each member tries to contact its individual Board member
- asked why George Washington was chosen as the symbol for tourism - expressed while many tourist are interested in George Washington many more are more interested in the Civil War
- discussed Preservation Planner's importance such as reviews plans and looks for new issues or locations in jeopardy
- most Counties have a staff to deal with preservation
- mentioned a developer that owns a great deal of Widewater that has no interest in preserving valuable cultural resources that will end up destroyed such as: Brent's Point Civil War Site, the areas around Richland, Arkendale, and Myrtle Road - next may be the area around Belle Plains
- doesn't think the County realizes how much revenue would be available from some of the locations the County owns such as the McDuff House for rental for functions etc.
- decided to leave the subject Preservation Planner on the agenda as a continuation to remind it to pursue the issue
- agreed to be more vocal on the subject.

- Staff commented about how much historical property the County actually owns itself and doesn't have a Preservation Planner to oversee the properties.
- Staff said the Preservation Planner position has been on the books since 2009 when the position was open again, but the position has not been filled.

REPORT BY COMMISSION MEMBER

Ken Pitts:

- Stafford Civil War Park - Update. Work has begun on the signage. VDHR is reviewing the signage design. Planning & Zoning is working on locations for signage. Proposed opening date is April 27, 2013. April 27th for the day the Army of the Potomac left Stafford to participate in the Battle of Chancellorsville.
- Stafford Civil War Database - Update. Kathy Baker said she had a meeting with John Hennessy and Eric Mink with National Park Service in early December. They are proposing to have the information together in draft format by the end of March.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 3:46 PM.

Anita Dodd - Chairperson

Barbara Kirby - Secretary