

**STAFFORD COUNTY - HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
MEETING MINUTES - MARCH 7, 2013**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Type Meeting	Date	Day	Time	Location	By
Regular	March 7, 2013	Thursday	3:03 PM	<b>Activities Room</b>	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		✓			
Anita Dodd	✓				
Barbara Kirby		✓			
Ken Pitts	✓				
David Rodriguez <sup>MD</sup>	✓				

**NEW BUSINESS**

*Topic: Falmouth Cemetery - Walking Tour - Cemetery Committee - Announcement.*

*Information:*

- Anita Dodd attended the ARB meeting on Monday to brief it on the walking tour
- she has obtained boxes for the stand to hold the brochure that explains the self-guided tour
- the brochure needs to be delivered to the printer for printing
- previously Economic Development had funding for printing the brochures - Anita Dodd will recheck with them
- printing may not occur until the beginning of Fiscal Year 2014 (July 1, 2013)
- the ARB had productive suggestions and mentioned the tour could be offered at the Union Church festival fund raiser scheduled for May 18<sup>th</sup>

*Action: temporary brochures can be made available for that day*

**CONTINUATIONS**

*Topic: Annual Historical Preservation Awards for 2012 to be Held in May.*

*Information:*

- the ARB discussed nominations - Tanya Gossett wanted to nominate Frank White, Norman Schools and the NAACP - all three for the National Register Nomination for the Stafford Training School (Rowser Building)
- Norman Schools won the award previously, eight years ago
- there is nothing in the award guidelines that states that the award cannot be given to the same entity more than once
- Anita Dodd said the Cemetery Committee does not have a nomination
- the Boy Scout Troop that received an award for 2010 was mentioned because it continued to maintain a cemetery all year not just one time
- all nominations are due before the Commission's April meeting

*Action: members continue to prepare for the awards*

*Topic: Preservation Planner - Discussion - Update.*

*Information:*

- David Rodriguez spoke with Supervisor Gary Snellings. Gary Snellings said he did not know anything about it and would have to get back with him.
- Kathy Baker said the Board met Tuesday; it has an actual Community Economic Development Committee that met before the Board meeting. She said Supervisor Paul Milde brought up Indian Pointe. She mentioned the ordinance from 2006, the Historical Commission has been working with. She said the Board was discussing saving some cultural resources. She reminded them that a cultural resource person could prioritize the resources and at least have a list to work from and could have some type of overlay. He asked the County Administrator to come back with more information at the next meeting. She said there is some discussion about Tourism being able to fund the position. She said Planning is not getting approval for the position. The County itself owns properties that need a preservation planner. She said the other Board members there were Chairman Susan Stimpson and Vice Chairman Bob Thomas.

*Action: Historical Commission members from those two districts can speak with those two Board members.*

*Topic: Civil War Database - National Park Service - Update.*

*Information: The database is scheduled to be ready the end of March.*

*Action:* Kathy Baker will touch base with the NPS.

*Topic:* *Falmouth Intersection - Master Interpretive Plan - Update.*

*Information:*

- Kathy Baker mentioned demolition of the buildings on the four corners. She said Anita Dodd has been documenting the houses.
- The three newer buildings are down. The Glover building is still standing.
- Kathy Baker said the master interpretive plan is moving along.
- The consultant came in last week to meet with staff and some of the stakeholders. The consultant brought an official from the company from Michigan with them. They met with some of the residents, Mark Osborn and others. They're holding ongoing interviews. They've spoken with most of the stakeholders. Some people have declined to meet. There have been three major categories, those who want things preserved and enhanced but do not want to attract more people, those who want economic development and rehab to make it more commercially viable, and to preserve for tourism, and those who do not want any changes. Discussions were taking place about working with Fredericksburg to promote the area, and perhaps having the trolley. There are ongoing discussions on other ways to attract visitors. Because of the difference in groups and interest, they're going to need a "ringmaster".
- They may want to enhance the overlook area. In the meantime they suggested having a central web site and having apps on iPhones etc.

*Action:* The consultants want to finalize all the stakeholders and come up with a draft report within the next couple of months.

*Additional Discussion:* Ken Pitts asked what the boundaries are for historic Falmouth.

- Anita Dodd said there are Federal boundaries, State boundaries and County boundaries. The State has it as a historic district. The County considers it a historic overlay. The Federal boundary is shaped like a large rectangular box. The Federal boundary is going to be revised. The consultant is tying in Chatham, Hunter's Iron Works, Ferry Farm and others, because they relate to Falmouth.
- David Rodriguez asked if anyone has ever looked at the public pontoon crossing that you can get to from the Fredericksburg side, left from the Battle of Fredericksburg. There is an interpretive marker there.
- Anita Dodd reiterated a preservation planner and a civil war database would help with this tremendously.
- Kathy Baker said it is National Park Service property.

**REPORT BY COMMISSION CHAIRPERSON**

*Topic:* *Homes/Buildings in Falmouth - Anita Dodd.*

*Information:*

- Anita Dodd finished the drawings and recordation of the four houses and provided a CD to VDOT.
- Originally the Commission thought the four houses on Butler Road were old Sears houses. They are not.
- Three of the houses were probably built sometime around 1920. The blue house on the corner was a later model.
- David Rodriguez thought it would be a good idea to shoot videos of the buildings as well as pictures, measurements and recordations.
- The Glover building was the Ellis store years ago. The bridge over the Rappahannock was rebuilt to be higher in 1943 because the river was flooding. The Ellis store was in the way. The store was rebuilt by VDOT. The building has a formed up concrete foundation, when the concrete set, they used the boards that were used to form the foundation to build the building. Anita Dodd said it is amazing. The store became a place for servicemen to stop to get a ride south from Quantico and A.P. Hill because it was a major intersection.
- Many people thought the sheds at the Glover store were for sale but they all connected to and were part of the store.
- The Glovers owned the building since the 1940s and knew its history from before then.
- Anita Dodd said the record of the sale of electricity to Falmouth from Fredericksburg is currently stored in Fredericksburg.

**REPORT BY COMMISSION MEMBER**

*Topic:* *Sherwood Forest - Richard Chichester.*

*Information:*

- Richard Chichester visited Ms. Greenlaw that lived in Sherwood Forest from 1982 - 1999.
- She gave him a copy of a newspaper article from the Free Lance-Star newspaper from June 11, 1929.
- He's going to call the owners of the property and tell them about the newspaper article and additional information he found.
- He said he will continue to contact the owners and their attorneys concerning the property from time to time. He will encourage them to attend a Commission meeting.

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 4:13 PM.