

**STAFFORD COUNTY - HISTORICAL COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES - JUNE 6, 2013**

CALL TO ORDER

Type Meeting	Date	Day	Time	Location	By
Regular	June 6, 2013	Thursday	3:05 PM	Conference Room ABC	Anita Dodd - Chairperson

ROLL CALL

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT

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

PRESENTATIONS BY THE PUBLIC

Speaker: Glenn Trimmer, Colonel, USAF (ret) - Director - FSCWS (Friends of Stafford Civil War Sites)

Topic: Stafford Civil War Park - Update.

Information:

- all eight picnic tables were full on Mother's Day around 2:00 PM
- first parking area was full - four cars were parked on the side of the road - a total of 26 vehicles
- people are visiting every day - 11 people (2 families) were there at 7:40 PM almost closing time last night
- he would like to have a counter installed - he's sure there are hundreds of people visiting the park on week-ends
- he thanked the Commission for all of its support

NEW BUSINESS

Topic: Age Determination of Structure - 38 Dove Lane - TMP 55-121.

Information:

- Anita Dodd said she had been to the house before when she was recording a cemetery in the area
- the request was received from Jed Price and Deidra Jett
- she mentioned an ordinance nick-named the 50 year ordinance
- basically the County was losing older homes as people wanted to build a new house on their property - before they would have to undergo a small subdivision process - the process was costly - now if the house is 50 years or older and there is adequate land to accommodate two houses the subdivision process is not necessary
- she said the house in question will qualify for the 50 year ordinance rule
- she said the ordinance has saved quite a few homes - the ordinance was initiated by Stewart Jones Ed.D. (now deceased)
- Anita Dodd will be out of town next week
- the owner wants to preserve the house as it was years ago

Results: Barbara Kirby motioned, seconded by Richard Chichester, to defer this item until the next meeting, the motion carried 5 - 0 with 2 absences.

Action: Anita Dodd will officially assess the house

Topic: Archeological Investigation - Garrisonville Landing - Possible Cemetery.

Information:

- a neighbor of the property told the developer there is a cemetery on the property
- Anita Dodd met with the contractor and the James River representative, Matt Laird - two possible cemetery sites were identified
- one on a hill with three very old cedars growing in a triangle, there are some rocks that could have been markers - a big slab is present - the other is down the hill from the first one in a clump of trees
- delineation was performed on the two locations - nothing was found

- the slab had two letters carved on the bottom but is not believed to be a head-stone

Action: the Commission agreed to check on the area periodically

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Topic: Annual Historical Preservation Awards - Comments/Changes.

Information: Anita Dodd said Ann Best-Rolls was disappointed in the vendor for the plaques - she had to return to the vendor to have the condition of the plaques corrected - Barbara Kirby commended Ann Best-Rolls for her work getting the plaques - the Commission will choose a different vendor next year

Topic: Ferry Farm Historic Resource Overlay District - Removal - Update.

Information:

- Amber Forestier reported for Kathy Baker that this item will be discussed again at the Planning Commission (PC) on June 12th
- it was deferred for additional information at the PC public hearing on May 8th
- Tanya Gossett attended the public hearing representing the ARB
- Acting Superintendent of the NPS, Lucy Lawless, was present at the public hearing to discuss its upcoming reviews
- she indicated the public as well as the County would have an opportunity to provide input on the environmental assessment
- the PC deferred discussing options for ending the heritage interpretation - zoning district to require County input on the master plan
- they discussed it at a work session last Saturday - Amber Forestier has a copy of the language that it proposes - basically that the master plan shall be approved by the Board of Supervisors after receiving the recommendation of the Planning Commission and wording about a 90 day limit
- it is already on the National Register and the National Land Mark

CONTINUATIONS

Topic: Preservation Planner - Discussion - Update.

Information:

- Amber Forestier said Planning & Zoning and Public Works are beginning to push for new staff at least in the Community Development Services Center (CDSC) due to issuing more building permits
- the next opportunity will be in the FY2015 budget process
- most every County has a preservation planner within its Planning Department
- the Historical Commission, the Architectural Review Board, and the Director of Planning & Zoning have all written at least two letters a year to the Board of Supervisors requesting a preservation planner for the County as well as several verbal requests
- in 2014 the County will celebrate its 350th Birthday but does not have a Preservation Planner

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

Information:

- the County requested the database in 2005 and has paid \$43,000 for it according to the Free Lance-Star newspaper
- Barbara Kirby spoke of her frustration and that the NPS does not return calls from staff
- Ken Pitts asked if the information cannot be obtained, is a refund possible?

Results: Barbara Kirby motioned, seconded by Richard Chichester, that the Historical Commission, by its next meeting that the County receive a report from the National Park Service on the Civil War Database that the County has already paid \$43,000 for, if not the Historical Commission will request Anthony Romanello, County Administrator, get in touch with the head of the NPS, the motion carried 5 - 0 with 2 absences.

Action: Staff to contact the NPS

Topic: Falmouth Intersection - Master Interpretive Plan - Update.

Information:

- Ray Ezell, District Archeologist, VDOT sent Anita Dodd information regarding a brick foundation discovered during demolition of a building including photographs - it was underneath a later foundation (concrete slab) - it appeared to her

to be part of an older structure - she requested to have a recordation completed but was refused - demolition was continued - 20 Butler Road (corner where Koonz car dealership was located) - Falmouth Historic District

Action: Anita Dodd shared the report with the Commission

REPORTS BY COMMISSION CHAIRPERSON

Topic: Recordations by Anita Dodd

Information:

- structures under demolition - recorded by Anita Dodd - 379 Hope Road - 151 Greenbank Road
- 511 Hope Road was too un-sturdy, she took photos

Topic: Letter regarding Stafford Courthouse Streetscape

Information:

- after the phase 2 archeological investigation - it has been suggested that they have the old courthouse foundation that was discovered covered with a plexi-glass pyramid for viewing
- Anita Dodd is concerned about it creating its own ecosystem where moss and plants grow and are detrimental to the foundation
- Gadsby's Tavern in Alexandria has a system that appears to be working - Ferry Farm had results with enclosed viewing of a foundation
- the Clerk said the same issue was brought up during the renovation of the historical well in front of the Courthouse
- Community Facilities staff is not going to use plexi-glass on the well

Results: Ken Pitts motioned, seconded by Barbara Kirby, that the Historical Commission will send a letter to the Board of Supervisors regarding the old foundation, the motion carried 5 - 0 with 2 absences.

REPORTS BY COMMISSION MEMBERS

Topic: Sherwood Forest - Update - by Richard Chichester.

Information:

- Richard Chichester spoke with Kevin Crown - they have landscaped and mowed around the house frequently
- cleaned up the area around the dairy barn - he mentioned to the owners about attending a Commission meeting
- the owners have met with the County regarding their plans
- they're still going to preserve the Sherwood structures
- the owners will offer a private tour the next time they come to Stafford

Action: Richard Chichester will continue to build a repoir with the owners

Topic: Stafford Civil War Park - Survey & Plat - Signs - Management Plan - by Ken Pitts.

Information:

- agreement between the Board and the FSCWS includes a survey and a plat to delineate the batteries of the park
- technically the land is still owned by Fredericksburg and Stafford
- he doesn't know where to inquire to see if it has been completed

Action: Amber Forestier said she will inquire with Keith Dayton, Deputy County Administrator about the survey and plat

- the information signs for the Civil War Park from the direction of the Courthouse are great but there are none from the other side of the County

- management plan for the park regarding crime

Action: Invite Sheriff Charlie Jett to speak to the Commission at its meeting

Results: Barbara Kirby motioned, seconded by David Rodriguez, to invite Sheriff Charlie Jett to speak at a Commission meeting regarding crime prevention and law enforcement in County parks, the motion carried 5 - 0 with 2 absences.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 4:10 PM.