

**STAFFORD COUNTY - HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
MEETING MINUTES - SEPTEMBER 5, 2013**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Type Meeting	Date	Day	Time	Location	By
Regular	September 5, 2013	Thursday	3:14 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		✓	Jacqueline Nova	GIS Analyst	GIS
Anita Dodd	✓				
Barbara Kirby	✓				
Ken Pitts	✓				
David Rodriguez <sup>MD</sup>		✓			

**NEW BUSINESS**

*Topic: Abberly Cemetery - Relocation.*

*Information:*

- cemeteries are identified on tax maps but the information is not easily accessed by Planning & Zoning to facilitate its reviews of parcels
- recently a cemetery was properly identified in a parcel in a subdivision - the parcel was purchased by an individual - the parcel had been surveyed, clearly marked on the plan, but no one noticed when it went through the review process - access to the drainfield went right up against the cemetery
- when Anita Dodd surveys in the field - the size of a cemetery is estimated - she said she is usually very generous about the dimensions as no form of delineation is completed - she estimated the size to be around 50' X 30' - the size on the parcel map was 40' X 40'
- Anita Dodd said there needs to be a system in place that will not allow cultural resources to be over-looked
- Amber Forestier said the cemeteries are marked in Hansen but there is nothing set up to trigger them for review when building permits come through - said there will need to be a code generated for the Hansen program
- Kathy Baker said it was a building permit not a development permit

*Results:* Anita Dodd and Jacqueline Nova will continue to work on maps and databases

*Topic: Oakenwold Farm - Phase I Architectural Survey Report - Proposed Rezoning - Traditional Neighborhood Development (TND).*

*Information:*

- Oakenwold and Sherwood Forest are the only two existing farmsteads in the county that still have their out-buildings - one was used as a school at one point
- Anita Dodd said people need to understand that phase I studies are used as tools and tools are to help you understand how to manage cultural resources that are found within a parcel
- it is not in the purvey to write the county's history but is a tool - as a tool everyone has a chance to review the report and offer comments - without the report no one would have that chance
- Ken Pitts was appalled at the inaccuracies he found in the report
- Anita Dodd said the Commission can point out inaccuracies and determine if a phase II report is necessary - she said in all probability a phase II would be necessary - she said ideally they would want to save the cultural resources - she said is that going to happen? they don't know - she said obviously the resources are right in the middle of where developers want to build the development

*Results:* Anita Dodd asked for comments from the Commission at the next monthly meeting so she can craft a letter from the Commission addressing the study - the Commission decided to invite Jerrilynn Eby, author of a book about Oakenwold Farm, to speak at the next meeting

*Topic: E-Mail - Internet - Instructions/Suggestions.*

*Information:*

- provided by Terry Baxley Morton - Commission Clerk

*Results:* the Commission had a better understanding of e-mail / meetings protocol

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**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

*Topic: Ferry Farm Historic District - Removal - Update.*

*Information:*

- Kathy Baker said the Board deferred action until its October 15<sup>th</sup> meeting upon request from Supervisor Bob Thomas allowing him an opportunity to attend the Architectural Review Board (ARB) meeting on Tuesday, September 3<sup>rd</sup>
- the Commission discussed an article in the Free Lance-Star newspaper that said Supervisor Bob Thomas said "I think the big elephant in the room is the perception that the ARB may be unhealthy - the article said he said that's not my opinion but that seems to be the perception
- Barbara Kirby said they have nothing to ascribe it to because now it's in the air
- Kathy Baker said he was addressing constituents - she said for the record he read a prepared statement apologizing at the Board of Supervisors meeting saying his comments may have been misconstrued and were not intended
- he also read the prepared statement to the ARB at its meeting on Tuesday
- Anita Dodd said she thinks historically ARB's often get a bad rap because they have to make hard decisions on how a historic district looks - often their decisions are not well liked by those individuals in the district - she said she thinks it's a perception that ARBs tend to have because of decisions to be made - she thinks that's where Supervisor Thomas was going with his comment
- Ann Best-Rolls said she thinks he was trying to be diplomatic and a mediator - trying to facilitate some progress and talking about the issue that is circulating around the ARB right now
- Anita Dodd said hopefully things will work themselves out - people will be able to discuss it - preservation is all about compromise - it's how it gets done

*Results:* Board of Supervisors deferred the subject until its October 15<sup>th</sup> meeting

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**COMMISSION MINUTES**

*Information:*

- Terry Baxley Morton said Planning & Zoning staff will be able to help catch up minutes for 2013 for the Commission and the ARB
- she thanked Ken Pitts for bringing the issue to everyone's attention

*Results:* temporary assistance with minutes

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**CONTINUATIONS**

*Topic: Marlborough Point in Regard to a Preservation Planner.*

*Information:*

- the preservation planner did their due diligence in the past to get a phase I study conducted at Marlborough Point
  - Anita Dodd said it's up to the property owner - there is no way to force them - that's when an ordinance referencing the issue would help - in this case it's a matter of county, state and national history at stake
  - Ann Best-Rolls said because of its proximities to the ossuaries and its history - she did not act on the letter sent by the Commission but feels the letter should have been sent to the Patowomeck Indians automatically as well as for any activity at Marlborough Point
  - everyone agreed and will make a point of this in the future - Ann Best-Rolls said she did not read the letter until later
  - Barbara Kirby said one of the many were distressed - one of the issues is they do not know the extent of the ossuaries - all they know is the five that were there and there were various groups that worked out there including the state and federal government - they all said they thought the ossuaries probably went out further
  - Barbara Kirby said "we're talking about a piece of land that has national significance - according to state law if there is a cemetery known to us then we are allowed to visit our ancestors"
  - Anita Dodd said she thought the state had offered to help with the area at one time - she said at one point the state had a Threatened Sites Program but she thinks the funding may have ran out
  - Kathy Baker said the property in question at Marlborough Point is going back before the Board on the 17<sup>th</sup> to inquire about sending an archeologist out to the site
  - Ken Pitts said he is surprised it was never designated as a Historical Resource Overlay District
  - Kathy Baker said the Board discussed it when it came up - she said just because you have a historical district does not automatically trigger archeological studies - when a building or something is going to be built and you have to actually go through an ARB review then a study can be required
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*Topic: Civil War Database - National Park Service - Update.*

*Information:*

- Anita Dodd said she spoke with Eric Mink - Historian - National Park Service - yesterday - he told her he's strictly working on the database for the county now

- she said he plans on getting a partial draft to the county by the end of this month and a full draft by the end of the year
- Kathy Baker said he's phasing it out because he realized it was too difficult to take on by himself with his other duties
- Ken Pitts pointed out the county was supposed to receive the report this past March

**Results:** Commission members and staff are hoping NPS is making headway

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

**Information:**

- Kathy Baker said they received a draft from the consultant and staff is currently reviewing the plan internally before they distribute it to the stakeholders

**Results:** staff should be able to distribute it to stakeholders, the Historical Commission and the ARB by the end of this month for feed-back

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#### **REPORTS BY COMMISSION CHAIRPERSON**

**Topic:** *Stone at Garrisonville Landing with Lettering - Potentially Historical.*

**Information:**

- Anita Dodd said apparently there has been removal of trees and cows on the property have eaten the boundary stakes

**Results:** the owner has to clear away the tree debris and have the boundaries re-staked so the stone can be placed in a proper place

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**Topic:** *Two Documents from the Civil War- Returned.*

**Information:**

- someone from Minnesota acquired two documents stolen during the Civil War and contacted Anita Dodd
- the Minnesota resident wants to bring the documents back to Stafford - Anita Dodd is working with Barbara Decatur - Clerk of the Court - on a procedure and location
- one document is from February 1776 - a promissory note from a local tobacco farmer - the other document is a court warrant from December 1753 authorizing the sheriff to bring someone to court who has an outstanding debt

**Results:** the resident from Minnesota wants to return the documents in November

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#### **REPORTS BY COMMISSION MEMBERS**

**Topic:** *Abberly Cemetery Relocation continued - asked by Ken Pitts.*

**Information:**

- Kathy Baker said it was deferred - she will find out when it is deferred to and let the Commission know
  - Ken Pitts said it is the cemetery next to the hospital that is supposed to have at least 20 Civil War graves
  - Anita Dodd said no one knows where the graves are except one Union Soldier buried in a family cemetery up by the house with a marker
  - Ken Pitts said he found out three are buried in the Union Cemetery in Fredericksburg
  - Anita Dodd said descendants of the Stevens family that own the property said the cemetery is a slave cemetery
  - she said two of the graves were disturbed maybe because they were moved or from relic hunters
  - she said anytime an area is disturbed it's hard to tell the period unless there is intact strata above or below the area
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**Topic:** *Dunbar Kitchen - Cambridge Street & Warrenton Road - requested by Ann Best-Rolls.*

**Information:**

- Ann Best-Rolls said she is concerned - she passes the building often - there is heavy equipment parked very close to the building and large cable wheels
- there is no orange reflective fencing around the site

**Results:** Terry Baxley Morton contacted the project manager at VDOT - he spoke with the inspector - he discussed the issue with Team Fischel a safety fence was placed

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#### **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 4:27 PM.

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