

**STAFFORD COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION MINUTES**  
**February 6, 2014**

The meeting of the Stafford County Historical Commission of Thursday, February 6, 2014, was called to order at 3:10 p.m. by Chairman Anita Dodd in the ABC Conference Room of the George L. Gordon, Jr., Government Center.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Anita Dodd, Richard Chichester, Barbara Kirby, Anne Best-Rolls and Ken Pitts

MEMBERS ABSENT: Jane Connor and David Rodriguez

STAFF PRESENT: Kathy Baker and Terry Baxley-Morton

GUESTS: Yousra Neberai

Mrs. Baker stated the County participates with the high schools and the program is called YES, Youth Engaged in Stafford, and it gives students an opportunity to be involved in Stafford Government and see how Commission and Committees operate. They choose the Commission or Committee they would like to attend and they attend meetings for the semester and Yousra will be with us for the next 4 or 5 months trying to learn more about the historic process.

Ms. Neberai stated she was a senior and was there to observe how county government works.

PRESENTATIONS BY THE PUBLIC

Mrs. Dodd stated there was no one present for presentation by the public and asked if there were any minutes.

MINUTES

None

Ms. Baxley-Morton stated no.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. George Washington Boyhood Home at Ferry Farm Environmental Assessment & Federal Consistency Determination - Response – Discussion

Mrs. Dodd asked if there was any additional information concerning the environmental assessment.

Mrs. Baker stated she emailed the response letter to the Commission and stated she has not made her way through the entire thing since it was forty-some pages and it was from all of the different agencies that responded. She stated if the Commission had any feedback to please provide it to her and she would pass it along.

Mrs. Dodd asked if the Commission should expect a response from them concerning their comments.

Mrs. Baker stated she did not know how their process worked and would have to check.

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Mrs. Dodd stated most of it was environmental and she thought the only portion that would apply to the Commission would be anything that addresses the cultural resources, but she did not get far enough through it to see if they had anything concerning that.

2. Oakenwold Rezoning - Resubmission - Discussion.

Mrs. Dodd stated Amber had given her the design guidelines which often never turn out as submitted. She suggested the Commission take a look to see their concept. She stated the thought their intent was to keep the house, but in the preliminary plans, they have a couple of overviews and in the first overview the map shows what is currently there and house is oriented correctly but then the concept plan show the house oriented wrong and nowhere near the shape it should be, so she is questioning if the house is actually within the plan because it was shown in an area with tennis courts and maybe a swimming pool that is right in back of the house. She stated it needs to be clarified and changed.

Mrs. Kirby asked if it had been to TRC yet.

Mrs. Baker stated it would not go to TRC because it was a rezoning, but it goes through the Development Review Meeting.

A discussion ensued concerning the plans and the orientation and the size of the house. It was decided the Commission feels more clarification was needed and they wanted to express their concerns and clarify what they would like to see happen on the site because the plans look like they would be building around the Oakenwold house.

Mrs. Baker stated this is a conceptual plan they are doing as part of the rezoning package, and it was just resubmitted based on comments submitted to them. The Commission could make additional comments.

The discussion continued concerning the preservation of the house and the conceptual plan and it was decided the Commission would send a letter asking for additional clarification concerning the house.

Mrs. Dodd stated she thought the letter should recommend what the Commission would like to see happen.

Mr. Pitts suggested a meeting instead of the letter.

The Commission members agreed.

Mrs. Dodd stated she thought a paper trail would be good, but meeting with them would be a little more inviting initially.

Ms. Best-Rolls asked if the cemetery was marked off.

Mrs. Dodd stated the cemetery was not on this property, it was located on the line. According to the family everyone was moved. She stated the suggestion by the Commission initially was to establish a 35 foot buffer at the boundary line in case there were remains there. She stated she did not think the developer was doing anything in that section because there is marsh there.

Mrs. Kirby stated this was all conceptual and it could change at any time.

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Mrs. Dodd stated they could, but the cemetery was in a marsh area.

Mrs. Kirby stated if it was in RPA it was probably protected.

Ms. Baxley-Morton stated Kathy was checking on the proffers.

Mrs. Kirby stated she felt the Commission should let the developer know if they were going to change the proffers, they should be notified before it goes to the Board of Supervisors.

Mrs. Dodd suggested the Commission table this topic until Mrs. Baker comes back.

Mrs. Baker stated she was looking at the proffers and she would ask for additional clarification. She read, "the applicant will construct a community center in coordination with the existing historic Oakenwold farm house and surrounding out buildings for the use of future Oakenwold residents. In the general location shown on the plan, the community center will feature the following amenities..."

Mrs. Dodd asked if a meeting with a representative from the developer or engineer, which ever would be the best to talk to, instead of writing a letter, would be possible.

Mrs. Baker stated the proffers did state the applicant will preserve the house on site in accordance with standards promulgated by the Virginia Department of Historic Resources. She stated she was not sure what that would mean for a house that was not in an historic district.

Mrs. Dodd asked if the Commission wanted to be kept abreast of any activity, did they need to be vigilant as to the agenda for the Board of Supervisors or was there another way they might get information.

Mrs. Baker stated the Commission was going to meet with the applicant in advance, they could certainly request that information.

Mrs. Dodd stated that was what she thought the Commission would like to do at this point and try to get clarification, let them know the concerns and give them some recommendation of what the Commission would like to see at that site. She felt the information might be transferred better in a conversation as opposed to a letter.

Mrs. Baker stated she could send them a request.

Mr. Pitts asked if there was any way something could be noted in the Planning Department records to notify this Commission if there were any changes to the proffers.

Mrs. Baker stated she will tell Mike to include the Commission.

3. Civil War Database - National Park Service - Final Update.

Mrs. Dodd asked if everybody received a copy of Glenn's letter. She asked Mrs. Baker if she had anything to add.

Mrs. Baker stated she only heard from a few people and if anyone had any comments to please let her know as soon as possible so she can let him know.

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Mrs. Dodd stated she felt the first portion addressed items the Commission did not have control over.

Mrs. Kirby stated the contract was never with the Historic Commission, it was with the County. So the County is the one who makes these decisions and we have no say so.

Mrs. Dodd stated in his letter Mr. Trimmer is saying the Commission should and that part of the letter should be addressed to the Board so they can see his concern. At this point in time the way this project has been handled has not been one the Commission has been asked to participate in. She stated she agreed the Commission should have more input but at the time this was composed that did not happen. She stated she felt significant strides have been made over the years in correcting that issue and when there was a preservation planner the Commission seemed to have a better idea of what things were and without that position we seem to be a little less involved.

Mrs. Kirby stated in her opinion they were looking for a preservation planner who would keep the Commission abreast of what was happening on a daily or weekly basis depending on what was happening with projects like this one. Because we don't have one there is a variety of people doing portions of the job.

Mr. Pitts stated he spoke with Mr. Trimmer three times today and as he understood it Mr. Trimmer was looking for someplace to send the comments so he told them to send them to the Commission. He stated some of the comments pertain to the data base.

Mrs. Dodd stated the involvement of the Commission is drafts and bits and pieces of it to go over and make comments on as the document was worked through. She stated she thought his comments on specific resources should be given to Eric, because he is the one putting it together. And the first portion of the letter should go to the Board of Supervisors.

Mrs. Kirby stated we need to get it to the people who matter and can make the change, we can't.

Mrs. Baker stated they are currently moving on and from this point forward, she would share the comments with the County Administrator, who can forward it to the appropriate parties and I will forward it to Eric Mink. Then we can continue to monitor on a monthly basis to see when we will get a final draft. She suggested the Commission respond with any corrections they know of or change of format, because that is what needs to be done at this point and this is what Eric is expecting. She stated the Commission members were the experts because there was no expert on staff to provide the comments. This is Stafford County's document and they want the Commission to be happy with it. She stated Mr. Trimmer was not asking for comments, he was just asking that his comments be public. She stated she would forward it to anyone the Commission suggested.

Mrs. Kirby stated she would like to see this passed on.

A brief discussion ensued between the Commission members concerning Redoubt Number Two and it was stated the information needed to be historically correct.

Mrs. Dodd stated everyone was in agreement that the letter should be passed on to the individuals that need to see the comments.

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Mrs. Baker stated as soon as she got a date from the National Park Service she would gladly pass it along to the Commission.

Mrs. Dodd stated being able to comment on the pieces they were seeing was a good thing and moved on to the discussion concerning the preservation awards.

4. Annual Historic Preservation Awards - May 2014 for 2013 - Preparation.

Ms. Baxley-Morton stated last year the letter was sent out somewhere around February 15<sup>th</sup>, so she would put it on her calendar to send out. She stated she had received no comments on the draft copy but she would send it out again.

Mrs. Baker asked what date would the Commission like the nominations back.

Ms. Baxley-Morton stated it was in the letter, but she thought it was a month.

Mrs. Baker asked if someone had been appointed to get the plaques.

Mrs. Dodd stated Jane had been doing it for the past few years and thought someone else should take on that responsibility.

Ms. Best-Rolls stated she did it last year and would not mind doing it again this year.

5. Preservation Planner - Update.

Mrs. Dodd stated she spoke before the Board on Tuesday concerning reinstating that position, but she did not get a good feeling. She stated she explained what the Commission did and went through the things that had been done this year and explained a little bit of the process. She discussed the list of resources the Commission had developed, and then made the point that a lot of the things on the list were county owned buildings. She stated there were 18 resources and used that to segue into the preservation planner by saying that position would help the County with the resources.

Mr. Pitts asked about the comment Mrs. Bohmke made.

Mrs. Dodd stated that Mrs. Bohmke, like many people think this Commission is the Historical Society and she made a comment about how great the Historical Society monthly meetings was. Mrs. Dodd stated it was a little exasperating that people don't know the difference between the two. She stated she felt the Commission should continue giving a synopsis to the Board, if only on a yearly basis.

Ms. Baxley-Morton stated the letter for the Historic Preservation Awards was sent out around the 13<sup>th</sup> of February last year and awards by March 15<sup>th</sup>. She stated last year, the Commission requested the nomination be sent to the Department of Planning and Zoning or her email address. She stated at the end there was a comment that said if you have any questions about the awards and/or the nominating process please contact Kathy Baker, Assistant Director of Planning and Zoning and the general number for them.

6. Falmouth Intersection - Master Interpretive Plan - Update.

Mr. Chichester asked about the Falmouth intersection.

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Mrs. Baker stated the Community and Economic Development Committee of the Board recommended the consultant who prepared the Master Interpretive Plan give a presentation to the full Board on March 4<sup>th</sup>. She stated they will talk about it and may or may not endorse the plan and we need to submit it back to DHR and VDOT by June. That will complete the process and then move into the next step.

Ms. Best-Rolls stated it was neat to see Dunbar's Kitchen and the Bell House. By not having the money the process was slowed down and you can really experience the view shed.

7. Proposed Ordinance O06-47 dated July 18, 2006 ref Archaeological Surveys & Investigations - Discussion.

Mrs. Dodd asked if anybody had any comments about the Proposed Ordinance. With no comments she moved on the Chairman's Report.

**CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

Mrs. Dodd stated she was contacted by Matt Laird, who is doing the research for the Crucible property on Mt. Olive Road. She stated there was an Armstrong cemetery there and Alex McCallister was the developer. She stated he was a very responsible developer when it comes to cultural resources. Matt contacted her and asked what information she had on the property and she gave him what she had. She stated there apparently was a Phase 1A done on the property and she was currently trying to get a copy of that.

Mrs. Kirby asked what was going to happen to the Crucible.

Mrs. Baker stated it was previously proposed for the Crucible's new training school, and they are no longer developing that parcel.

Mrs. Dodd stated Alex was going to develop it into house lots.

Ms. Baxley-Morton asked for clarification concerning the database Mrs. Dodd requested.

Mrs. Dodd stated she needed some information for a presentation and she could not find her list of the endangered properties that had been identified. She asked Terry to send it to her and she sent several data bases.

Mrs. Baker stated property management keeps track of all the properties the County owns and we the Cultural Resource data base list with 1,200 plus entries that the Preservation Planner created when we had that position and things get added to it. She asked when the Commission created an endangered list.

Mrs. Dodd stated a couple of meetings ago. Terry sent the list to the Commission but she had misplaced it and was trying to get a copy, but none of what Terry sent was the list. She asked Terry to send it to her again.

Mr. Pitts asked if there was a chance of getting a list of all the County resources.

Mrs. Baker stated yes but it has not been updated in a while.

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- Additional Presentations by the Public - as Determined by the Chairperson.

**REPORTS BY COMMISSION MEMBERS**

Mr. Pitts asked if there were any more Schiel maps and if they were still for sale.

Mrs. Dodd stated yes, you can get them at Belmont, the Planning Department, she had some and the GIS Department sells them.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Mrs. Kirby made a motion to adjourn.

Mr. Pitts seconded.

The motion passed 5 to 0 (Mrs. Connor and Mr. Rodriguez were absent).

With no further business to discuss the meeting adjourned at 4:15 p. m.