

STAFFORD COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION MINUTES
October 2, 2014

The meeting of the Stafford County Historical Commission of Thursday, October 2, 2014, was called to order at 3:07 p.m. by Chairman Anita Dodd in the ABC Conference Room of the George L. Gordon, Jr., Government Center.

MEMBERS PRESENT Anita Dodd, Barbara Kirby, Jane Conner, Ken Pitts and David Rodriguez

MEMBERS ABSENT Ann Best-Rolls and Richard Chichester

STAFF PRESENT Kathy Baker and Denise Knighting

GUEST Erik Mink, National Park Service

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS

None

NEW BUSINESS

1. Civil War Database update – Erik Mink, National Park Service

Mrs. Dodd stated Erik Mink was here to give the Commission an update on the Civil War database.

Mr. Mink stated he wanted to thank the Commission for inviting him and he should have been there long before to provide updates. He stated they were making headway but apologized for the delay. He gave the Commission a brief history of when the project was started and the purpose of the database, stating the park service has a similar database for Spotsylvania County. The idea is to plot on maps areas outside of National Park Service boundaries that have significance to the battles, so those areas are protected, with the idea that the County would use that database when they had land issues such as rezoning's or special use permits as sort of an early warning system. The County would then have some information up front that a parcel has historical significance and this is what has happened there. In Stafford County you didn't have big battles like on the other side of the river but for 7 months the Union Army camped here and manipulated this landscape. He stated the remnants of their occupation are still here in many locations. Camps were not mapped well, if at all, during the Civil War and the hope was to provide a document that shows where these campsites are. They have learned through their relationship with the Army Corps of Engineers and the Virginia Department of Historic Resources, if the archeological record of a campsite has been compromised or removed, the sites still have significance from a landscape perspective. The holes where the huts were can tell a lot a lot about the patterning and locations on the landscape. The thought was if the camps were plotted on maps that the County could use when a land use permit or issue comes up; it would be an early warning system. He stated the Army Corps of Engineers uses these when they have permits for wetland disturbance. He stated they found maps of actual maps of the camps in Stafford County, which was a snapshot in time, somewhere around January or February of 1863. He stated they have been using these maps, which go down to a tremendous detail, to create the report and plotting them on USGS topographical maps. They are not documenting an historical narrative of the Union Army in the County, but more about where they were with the information they have.

HISTORICAL COMMISSION MINUTES
October 2, 2014

Mrs. Conner stated they were here for 13 months.

Mr. Mink stated this is only 7 months because they had no maps from the period they were here in the spring of 1862. He stated he was very hesitant to put anything on a map that was a guess. These maps were drawn by engineers at headquarters for the Army of the Potomac, go down to the regimental level, which was tremendous detail they could put on a topo map with some certainty. When they look at the spring and summer of 1862, they weren't building semi-permanent camps, so there is less of a physical visible intrusion on the landscape and it is more difficult to find out where they are and there are no maps. He stated they were plotting what they knew with the available information. He stated they were hoping this was a living document and could be added to, based on research, but there are people in the community who may know based on first-hand experience. If they are willing to share to help create a better document, that would be wonderful. He stated he is systematically working through the Army Corps and within the 5 months they found 2 more maps that show the Indian 11th and 12th Army Corps which they did not have any information on as to their locations, so they were continuously getting more information. He gave details of how the plotting was broken down by individual brigades, the dates they arrived and departed Stafford County, how many regiments were in the brigades during that 7 month period that they were here, who the Commanders were, if any of the regiments transferred around to different organizations during that period, location of the camps and a listing of those regiments. He stated most of them do not have wartime structures or features. There may be 1 or 2 that have a historic house that was used as an officer's headquarters, which would be noted. He stated he felt the bibliography was important because historians feel the need to explain how they arrived at the conclusions. He stated they have tens of thousands of memoirs, letters and diaries at Chatham and they were going through those. He was making notes of any indication for those regiments within that brigade if they ever mentioned moving, when they began construction of their huts, because some of them did not know they would be here all winter, sketches the men drew of their camps and even some photographs of the camps. Based on the information and the maps they were putting a square around an area. He stated it was up to the County to decide how they would use the information, but hopefully if it is an undeveloped area and a request comes in for some type of land use, this would say there is the potential for some sort of Civil War resource. He stated he is continuing to work on this and is doing it by brigade because he has found some divisions did not necessarily camp together. He would like to come to the Commission meetings on a monthly basis to provide an update as they continue to work on this project. He stated this project was in addition to other projects he was currently doing and he was finding time to do it. He could provide sections as they are completed or wait until the document was finished.

Mrs. Kirby asked if the information they had received so far could be used by GIS.

Mrs. Baker stated she was sure it could.

Mr. Mink said that was the reason for putting it on USGS maps. He stated the purpose was not to provide information about people's private property.

Mrs. Conner asked if there was anyway GIS could limit it because she knew there were people who would go out and dig up artifacts.

Mrs. Baker stated they would have to talk about that because the County was a receptacle for public information and we are subject to FOIA request. If this information is already available to the public and all we are doing is regenerating it in a different format, we need to talk about what is going to be shown.

HISTORICAL COMMISSION MINUTES

October 2, 2014

Mr. Mink stated they don't actually own the maps, but even though they have copies someone could come in as a federal agency and ask to see the copies. They have been trying to figure out a way to somewhat protect the information. He stated they have the map for reference, but cannot give the map to someone coming in. Using them in this document was reproducing them in bits and pieces and not reproducing the entire map, so it falls within the fair use.

A brief discussion ensued between the Commission members and Mrs. Baker concerning the use of the maps and the GIS layer.

Mrs. Kirby stated if it was located on the tax map the developer would know it was there.

Mrs. Dodd stated as Mr. Mink said in the beginning, one of the main reasons for doing this was so the County would have this information for planning purposes, so it would have to be placed on the map so you would know where it was. If you know what you have you can better deal with the resource when that comes down the road. She stated you could be cautious, but it had to be recorded on the map for the County.

Mrs. Conner stated she did not want relic hunters coming in and getting a copy.

Mrs. Baker stated we are a public agency and if something is here, people can come and ask for it.

Mrs. Dodd stated the Cemetery Committee had a similar concern about documenting the cemeteries but it seems the amount of damage to cemeteries had decreased. She told Mr. Mink she thought it was an excellent idea that he come to the meetings every month. She asked Mr. Mink if there was any information on Confederate occupations.

Mr. Mink stated they did not have much information in the way of maps. The information they did have showed it was all now Quantico.

Mrs. Kirby asked if there was a vague idea of when the product would be finished.

Mr. Mink stated he was doing this in addition to other duties and he was trying to do a brigade a week, and was hoping after the first of the year they could be finished with the Army camps.

Mrs. Dodd asked Mr. Mink if he was open to additional information.

Mr. Mink stated yes, if they are willing to share. If it fits into this and speaks to things that happened on the property or if someone reads this and disputes it, he would need documentation to back it up.

The Commission thanked Mr. Mink for coming to the meeting and giving them an update.

Mrs. Dodd stated they would move on to the update to the national Register for Redoubt #2.

2. Update to National Register Nomination, Redoubt #2

Mrs. Baker stated the Department of Historic Resources forwarded this to the County for comment, since we are a Certified Local Government. Because this was an update to a National Register, it was looking at a name change and not doing anything to the status of this as a National Registered property, they are not expecting any formal comments from us. However, if the Commission looks at the update

HISTORICAL COMMISSION MINUTES

October 2, 2014

and takes issue with how it was prepared or things that we might want see as inaccuracies, that would be the information we would want to send back to them and make comment on. She stated November 6th is when the Keeper of the National Register would make a decision. As additional information the report was prepared by staff at DHR on a request that was submitted to them to look at the information. She stated they would use three outside consultants, who were experts in this field and have no connection whatsoever, would be doing a field review and make a final decision.

Mrs. Dodd stated she looked at the report and the proposed modification and the information Dr. Mountz sent. She stated she was not an expert on the Civil War or this particular issue, however reading the documentation sent to her she believed there was a reason for the name change and a reason for the updated information. She stated she appreciated the fact the information was received, but did not see any reason they could not go ahead with the modifications and changes.

Mr. Pitts stated to him it was just setting history straight.

Mrs. Kirby stated after reading the reports that were given to her, she would agree that it was obvious the name change needs to be done.

Mrs. Dodd stated this was a procedure that happens and should happen. New information is always coming to the forefront.

3. New CLG Grant Regarding Slavery-Related Resources – Update

Mrs. Baker stated they were close to choosing a consultant. They are at the contractual phase and hope to have someone on board by end of the month. They would then kick into high gear because they only have until June to complete the project under the DHR contract. She stated at this point they have a core committee that is overseeing the project, which includes Tanya Gossett, Anita Dodd, and Doug Sanford from Mary Washington. She stated she is sitting in and they have pulled in Frank White and Dorothy Jackson. They would be looking for a larger advisory group/stakeholders group. She stated they would be looking for input over the next few months and the plan was to have a meeting with stakeholders sometime in early November and have everybody come to the table with the consultant and give the information that they have to them so they have a place to start. Putting all the information together and making recommendations for what might actually be surveyed. She stated they were looking for people to be on the stakeholder list and some names had already been suggested, including Jane and Barbara. She asked if anyone else on the Commission had any interest with assisting with this or could provide any names of people who may have information concerning slave related resources.

Mrs. Dodd stated the contact Dorothy had was 88 years old, so someone would have to go to her house and get the information from her.

Mrs. Kirby stated someone from Mount Olive Baptist Church.

Mrs. Baker stated Mr. White had mentioned 6 African-American churches and he was going to reach out to them.

Mrs. Kirby stated Shiloh Old site was having their monument inscription unveiling.

Mrs. Baker asked if any other members had any interest in assisting. She stated there might be 3 stakeholders meeting over the next 9 months.

HISTORICAL COMMISSION MINUTES

October 2, 2014

Mrs. Kirby stated on the 350th website it was noted that Emanuel Johnson, who was a slave for the Tacketts, was sold south and returned to Stafford County and bought Valley View Farm. She stated he did not buy Valley View Farm; he got 16 acres of Valley View Farm. She stated there were also several slave traders here in the county.

Mrs. Baker stated that was the sort of information the consultant would need. She asked if they thought of someone, they could send the information to her. She stated she would also send the list of suggested names to the Commission.

Mrs. Conner stated Glenna Shifflett was selling Carlton, and that was one of the only standing slave quarters that is in existence today. She stated it was above the kitchen and she asked if someone could go there before October 15th to take measurements and everything.

Mrs. Dodd stated she would do it.

Mrs. Baker stated she sent a notice to Jerrilynn and she will contact the Historical Society to see if anyone was interested.

Mrs. Conner stated they have been over there.

Mrs. Baker stated she meant being in the group.

Mrs. Dodd stated she would love to do the measurements for the building and that is part of what they survey would do because that was on the list of slave resources already.

Mrs. Baker stated there was a concern because of the potential change of ownership.

Mrs. Dodd stated she would be very willing to do it if it was a matter of expediency.

Mrs. Baker they would like to get as much information to assist the consultants as they could.

Mrs. Dodd stated she was very excited about the project. She felt it would be an amazing report when it was put together and hopefully there will be a second phase. She did not think they had the money or the time to do all of the sites and information that would be gathered. She stated the idea was to get the information together, but not all of it may have extended research done on it for this report, but hopefully we could get another grant to continue the research and study on those that we run out of money and time to do.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. Proposed Ordinance O06-47 – July 18, 2006 – Archaeological Surveys & Investigations

Mrs. Dodd stated if no one had any comments on the Ordinance she would move on the Chairman's report.

ADDITIONAL PRESENTATIONS BY THE PUBLIC

None

HISTORICAL COMMISSION MINUTES
October 2, 2014

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

No Report

REPORTS BY COMMISSION MEMBERS

Mr. Pitts stated the more he reads about the problems at the landfill the more he wants to bring up the fact that they still don't have the plat for the Civil War Park, it was still part of the landfill property.

Mrs. Dodd stated there has never been a survey of the land that was turned over to the County as the Civil War Park. She stated that was something that was needed because at some point the landfill will get bigger and they want to make sure they don't encroach on the Park. She asked Mrs. Baker if she could look into that.

Mrs. Baker stated she could certainly ask.

Mrs. Dodd stated the boundaries need to be set.

Mrs. Baker stated she wanted to make sure everyone got an invitation to the highway marker dedication for Rowser Building on Tuesday at 5:30.

Mrs. Conner, Mrs. Dodd, Mrs. Kirby and Mr. Pitts stated they would be there.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

November 7, 2013

Mrs. Kirby made a motion to approve the minutes as submitted.

Mr. Pitts seconded.

The motion passed 4-0 (Mrs. Conner abstained because she was not present at the November meeting)

January 2, 2014

Mrs. Dodd stated there was one correction on page 7, line 309, the first 'time' should be removed.

Mrs. Kirby made a motion to approve the minutes as amended.

Mr. Pitts seconded.

The motion passed 4-0 (Mrs. Conner abstained because she was not present at the January meeting)

February 6, 2014

Mrs. Dodd stated on line 225 of page 5 'but' should be changed to 'bit'.

Mr. Pitts made a motion to approve the minutes as amended.

HISTORICAL COMMISSION MINUTES
October 2, 2014

Mrs. Kirby seconded.

The motion passed 4-0 (Mrs. Conner abstained because she was not present at the February meeting)

Mrs. Baker stated she had one more item, and she was sorry she did not make copies for the Commission. The Marine Corp Base Quantico is in the process of updating its Integrated Cultural Resource Management Plan pursuant to the programmatic agreement with the Historic State Preservation Officer. They are giving 30 days for review and comment on the draft, which would be due November 1st, which was not in time for the next meeting. She stated she would scan the document and email it to each of the Commission members. And if there were any comments to please email them to her and she would get them to the County Administrators office to include in their comments.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Pitts made a motion to adjourn.

Mrs. Kirby seconded.

The motion passed 5-0.

With no further business to discuss the meeting was adjourned at 4:13 p.m.