

STAFFORD COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION MINUTES
November 6, 2014

The meeting of the Stafford County Historical Commission of Thursday, November 6, 2014, was called to order at 3:06 p.m. by Chairman Anita Dodd in the ABC Conference Room of the George L. Gordon, Jr., Government Center.

MEMBERS PRESENT Anita Dodd, Jane Conner, Ken Pitts, Richard Chichester, and Ann Best-Rolls

MEMBERS ABSENT Barbara Kirby and David Rodriguez

STAFF PRESENT Kathy Baker and Denise Knighting

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS

None

NEW BUSINESS

1. Sherwood Forest Update – Kevin Crown, Walton Development and Management

Mrs. Dodd stated Mr. Crown had an update.

Mr. Crown thanked the Commission and stated they just recently completed the stabilization effort on the manor house and the exterior kitchen building. The focus was on those buildings to keep them from further deterioration because there was water damage and other issues there. He stated the thought was not to get just any construction crew in there and possibly damage the historical integrity of the structures, so they hired Peter Post, who has done a lot of work restoring historic structures throughout Virginia.

Ms. Best-Rolls arrived at 3:10 p.m.

Mr. Crown gave a slide presentation and a brief history concerning Walton Development, their office locations and staff in the Reston office, which was the office he worked out of. He explained the location of Sherwood and gave a detailed history of the timeline of the property ownership starting with the land grant from the King of England in 1667 through the Walton Development acquisition in 2011. He stated the house was probably built in the 1840s, based on the architecture, style and brick pattern. There was evidence the Sherwood house served as some sort of hospital after the battle of Chancellorsville. He stated when they first saw the property it was overgrown and had a lot of disrepair. He showed various slides of the main house, kitchen, carriage barn and dairy barns before and after removing the overgrowth. He explained to the Commission the care that was taken to remove the overgrowth to not cause any additional damage to the structures. He went into detail concerning the stabilization work that was done to the structures and said the main house suffered a lot of water damage because of holes in the slate roof, which caused mold and mildew inside the structure. He stated another problem was the lack of waterproofing on the basement foundation. He stated that was still an issue that they had to deal with. He showed additional slides of the structures during the stabilization phase and explained how the various tasks were completed. He then showed additional photos of the main house and kitchen after the stabilization work was completed. He showed photographs of the slave quarters

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and noted it was still standing but the structure was in bad shape. He pointed out one side was exposed to the elements and was really beyond repair at this point.

Mrs. Dodd asked if there would be a formal written report concerning the stabilization efforts.

Mr. Crown stated yes, he was writing that and would be happy to share it with the Commission. He stated currently they were looking at a ballpark assessment to see what it would take to make the manor house, kitchen, carriage barn and dairy barns habitable. He stated they currently did not have a use as to what the structures could possibly be, but as a benchmark to see what could be saved, and that would give them a starting point.

Mrs. Dodd asked if the intention was to sell that property or develop it.

Mr. Crown stated they were not going to build on it, they did plan on restoring, but did not know what the uses would be at this point in time. He stated it was possible that it could be incorporated and used by the residential community as an HOA Community Center, or some other kind of use that would be beneficial for other residents of Stafford County was a possibility. He stated the idea was to incorporate those unique assets into the fabric of what they were proposing to do, but did not know the ultimate uses as this time. He stated if there was a desire for the Commission to visit the property before it gets too cold, please do so. He stated the landscape crew for the site works from April through October to ensure the grass is cut and the underbrush does not grow back.

Mrs. Dodd asked if he wanted to set a date for the visit.

Mr. Crown suggested she contact him with a few dates.

Mrs. Baker stated video documentation was mentioned at one time and she asked if it had been pursued.

Mr. Crown stated they did a laser production which creates a 3D image of the structures but they were also still considering video now that everything was stabilized.

Mrs. Baker stated she would follow up with him on that after, because the County had a grant regarding slavery sites throughout the county, and may want to include that in the project.

Mrs. Dodd thanked Mr. Crown for attending the meeting and giving the Commission the presentation. She stated someone would be getting back to him concerning dates.

2. Civil War Database Update – Erik Mink, National Park Service

Mrs. Dodd stated because of scheduling issues Erik could not attend the meeting but he did provide the Commission with a printed update. She stated the Commission could take it home and review it and if anyone had comments, they could be discussed at the next meeting.

3. Landfill Expansion Project

Mrs. Forestier stated all the studies were done years ago and permits were obtained. She stated three studies were found in our records and a letter from DHR. But through the letter it was found that staff did not have one of the Phase 2 studies. She stated she now had the copy and would make sure the

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Commission members received a copy. She stated it was the archeological remains of an 18th century through early 19th century domestic site.

Mrs. Dodd stated she thought there were other Civil War resources on that piece.

Mr. Pitts stated they may not have surveyed over far enough.

Mrs. Forestier stated they were not expanding over the whole site. They were stopping short of the Civil War Park, and also would have to keep a buffer.

Mrs. Dodd stated the Commission needs to see the letter from DHR also.

Ms. Best-Rolls stated there was a note that the park boundaries have not been formally established.

Mrs. Forestier stated she asked about it. Jason, who is in charge of the landfill, is looking into it.

Mrs. Baker stated she tried to get someone from the Park and Recs to come to the meeting, but they were unable to attend. She has asked that question and they will respond back.

Mrs. Dodd stated her feeling was the Commission should write a letter and express concern about the boundary not being established. They can't expand their operations without knowing where to stop.

Mrs. Forestier stated the study was for the area that was to be impacted, not the entire site.

Mrs. Dodd asked the Commission their thought about a letter and the content.

Mrs. Conner stated she felt a letter was necessary just to establish the boundaries.

Mrs. Forestier stated she was sure the boundaries were marked, but a formal survey has not been done.

Mrs. Dodd stated she would craft a letter and send it to the Commission for comments. She stated she felt it needed to go out as soon as possible.

4. Truslow Road Project Area Phase I

Mrs. Dodd stated she was given a draft Phase 1 of the Truslow Road project. She stated it was one of the road upgrades which would run from just slightly beyond Berea Church Road to Gabriels Lane. She stated the only cultural resource that could be compromised is a cemetery on the corner of Berea Church Road and Truslow Road, which was on private property. She stated it looks as if they were going to stay away from it, but she felt the Commission should write a letter expressing the concerns about the cemetery and to avoid it. She stated the headstones were made of cement by local individuals and hand inscribed. She stated it was not eligible for any National Resister nomination, but was very interesting and has a significant meaning for Stafford County. She stated she would write a letter and send it to the Commission members for review and comments.

5. Rappahannock River I-95 Crossing Study

Mrs. Dodd said this was a study for the I-95 Bridge across the Rappahannock and some lane additions.

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Mrs. Baker stated the additional lanes were collector distributor lanes which would assist with getting on and off Route 17.

Mrs. Dodd stated in the spring they were asked about the possibility of cultural resources that might be in the area of construction. She stated she did not know of any in the suggested area and did not know if there was a need to comment. She asked the Commission if they wanted her to write a letter stating the Commission did not have an issue.

Mr. Chichester stated it was adjacent to the I-95 main road.

Mrs. Dodd said it looks like they are staying in the right-of-way that was established for the existing road.

It was decided the Commission would not send a letter.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

6. CLG Grant Regarding Slavery-Related Resources – Update

Mrs. Dodd stated they would be having the first meeting on the 10th of November for individuals that could potentially provide information about slavery-related resources.

Mrs. Baker stated the meeting would be held in the ABC Conference room at 6:30 p.m.

Mrs. Dodd stated anyone that has information is welcome to come and share.

Mrs. Baker stated either an email or letter was sent to approximately 20 people in addition to the ARB, Cemetery Committee and Historical Commission members.

Mrs. Dodd stated she spoke with a few people she did not think were notified.

Mrs. Baker stated a press release was put out today and the meeting notice would be on the County website.

Mrs. Dodd stated with no other comments they would move on. Item 7 stays on the agenda as a reminder and there are no additional presentations by the public so on to the Chairman's report.

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

ADDITIONAL PRESENTATIONS BY THE PUBLIC

None

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Mrs. Dodd stated she had a few things to mention. On Sunday at 2 o'clock Belmont is having a presentation about the Fannie Roots house and the house will be open to the public. She stated VDHR conducted several meetings around the State to get input from people about their State Comprehensive

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Plan. She attended the meeting in September and of the people attending, Stafford County had the second most people there. She said the State Comprehensive Plan would not go into effect until October of next year and will be published in 2016, and the Commission would get copies of the draft to review. She stated she made the comment at the meeting that she did not feel the State was making the effort to disseminate information to counties and localities about how things are done on the State level and the programs that they have. She suggested that VDHR visit the Board of Supervisors on a periodic basis and give updates on preservation issues in the County and what was available to help. She stated the document would be drawn up from the information given to them from the districts and should reflect more about the actual conditions throughout the state. She asked if anyone else had anything to discuss. Hearing none she moved to the approval of minutes.

REPORTS BY COMMISSION MEMBERS

None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mrs. Dodd asked the Commission members if they had any comments on the minutes as presented.

March 6, 2014

April 3, 2014

May 1, 2014

June 5, 2014

October 4, 2014

Mr. Pitts made a motion to accept the minutes.

Mrs. Conner seconded.

The motion passed 5-0 (Mrs. Kirby and Mr. Rodriguez were absent).

Mrs. Baker stated the January meeting was scheduled for January 1st. She asked if the Commission wanted to move the date.

Mrs. Dodd stated she would be having surgery on January 6th and probably would not attend a January meeting. She stated her suggestion would be to cancel the January meeting.

Mr. Chichester made a motion to cancel the January meeting.

Mrs. Conner seconded.

The motion passed 5-0 (Mrs. Kirby and Mr. Rodriguez were absent).

ADJOURNMENT

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Mr. Chichester made a motion to adjourn

Mrs. Conner seconded.

The motion passed 5-0 (Mrs. Kirby and Mr. Rodriguez were absent).

With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 4:19 p.m.