

STAFFORD COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION MINUTES

April 2, 2015

The meeting of the Stafford County Historical Commission of Thursday, April 2, 2015, was called to order at 3:09 p.m. by Chairman Anita Dodd in the Activity Room of the George L. Gordon, Jr., Government Center.

MEMBERS PRESENT Anita Dodd, Barbara Kirby, Richard Chichester, Ken Pitts, and David Rodriguez

MEMBERS ABSENT Jane Conner and Ann Best-Rolls

STAFF PRESENT Kathy Baker, Amber Forestier and Denise Knighting

Mrs. Dodd called the meeting to order and asked Ms. Knighting to call the roll. With five member present it was determined there was a quorum. Mrs. Dodd stated with no public presentations they would move on to the Election of Officers.

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS

None

ORGANIZE COMMISSION.

-Election of Chairperson.

Mrs. Baker stated she would open the floor for nominations for Chairman.

Mrs. Kirby stated she would like to nominate Anita Dodd.

Mrs. Dodd stated she would accept the nomination.

Mrs. Baker asked if there were any other nominations.

Mr. Chichester made a motion to close the nominations.

Mr. Pitts seconded.

Mrs. Baker asked for all those in favor of Anita Dodd as Chairman say aye.

The nomination passed 5 - 0.

-Election of Vice Chairperson.

Mrs. Dodd stated she would open the floor for nominations for Vice Chairman.

Mrs. Kirby nominated Richard Chichester.

Mr. Chichester stated he would accept the nomination.

Mr. Pitts made a motion to close nominations.

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Mrs. Dodd asked for all those in favor of Richard Chichester as Vice-Chairman say aye.

The nomination passed 5 - 0.

-Election of Secretary.

Mr. Chichester nominated Barbara Kirby for Secretary.

Mrs. Kirby stated she would accept the nomination.

Mr. Pitts made a motion to close the nominations.

Mr. Chichester seconded.

Mrs. Dodd asked for all those in favor of Barbara Kirby for Secretary say aye.

The nomination passed 5 - 0.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Civil War Database Update – Eric Mink, National Park Service

Mrs. Dodd stated Eric could not make the meeting and would email this month's contribution. She asked the Commission if there were any comments concerning the previous reports submitted.

Mrs. Kirby stated she was a little concerned on the data base because it stated they do not know anything about the present circumstances of the property.

Mrs. Dodd stated she was not sure that was part of their purview. They were supposed to make an inventory. And once you have that inventory, those sites get put on the tax maps, so when an application is submitted it would be known there was something there. At that point you would hopefully get the survey.

Mrs. Kirby stated she thought it would state something like this is now part of such and such subdivision.

Mrs. Baker stated the GIS department would place the general sites.

Mrs. Dodd stated then you would know where the sites are located.

Mr. Chichester asked where they got the maps that show where the sites were.

Mrs. Dodd stated they were Civil War maps done by the Civil War Engineers.

Mr. Chichester stated they were all over his and his brother's property, but the oral history from the family and does not agree with what the maps shows.

Mrs. Dodd suggested Mr. Chichester talk with Eric.

Mr. Pitts stated he felt Erick was trying to tell you generally where the campsites were located.

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Mrs. Baker stated over the years property lines and landmarks have changed. The road alignments in the vicinity have changed.

Mr. Chichester stated he would talk to Eric when he comes to another meeting.

Mrs. Baker stated the Commission should look at all of the reports and see if any recommendations were needed.

Mrs. Dodd stated Mr. Pitts and Mrs. Connor had both given comments to Eric. With no further discussion concerning the Civil War Database update, she moved on to George Washington Village Cultural Resources.

2. George Washington Village Cultural Resources

Mrs. Dodd stated Mark King contacted her by email concerning information concerning the cemeteries on the properties. She stated he stated they did not find any record of it in the deed search. She stated very rarely do they find any information in deeds concerning cemeteries. She stated she has not spoken with Mr. King but he knew about the Ball-Stockford Family Cemetery on the edge of the property because the Cemetery Committee recorded it. She stated the other 2 shown on the map, the Norman Cemetery and the Family Cemetery, are ones the Cemetery Committee knew about because they show up on tax maps, but they are unable to locate them. She stated Dovetail has been hired to identify and report on the cemeteries, and they asked her about 4 cemeteries, Ball-Stockford, Ball-Lunsford, Norman and the Family Cemetery. She gave Dovetail the information she had on the cemeteries and told them information for the Ball-Stockford and Ball-Lunsford cemeteries has been digitized and was available at the County through GIS. She also requested to go out in the field with them when they went out to look for the other 2 cemeteries, but that had to be approved by the client.

Mrs. Kirby asked about the Greenhow Cemetery, not the one listed as Greenhow, but the other one on the west side of 95.

Mrs. Dodd stated she did not know if that was in this plan.

Mrs. Forestier stated it was not in this plan.

Mrs. Dodd asked the Commission to look at the concept plan and pointed out the developer did not own the strip of land in the middle of the project. She also pointed out another cemetery that has not been recorded.

Mrs. Forestier stated it was on the Randall plat.

Mrs. Dodd stated the plan was to put a road on top of the cemetery. She stated because the developer does not own the property at the moment, it was not part of the area Dovetail was researching and she would talk to Dovetail and make them aware. She stated this was a concept plan that shows what they want to do, but at the moment she was unsure if they could because they don't own all of the property. She stated it appears that the developer is handling the cemetery situation in the manner that they should. But they are apparently not willing to do anything about the other cultural resources. She suggested the Commission write a letter to express their wishes and concerns on record. She asked the Commission for input.

Mrs. Kirby stated other counties require a Phase 1 and Stafford is losing cultural resources. She stated Stafford has a tourism office and asked what would the tourist come and see if the cultural resources are lost.

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Mrs. Dodd stated she agreed there should be some sort of Ordinance, but there was not one at this time and the Commission has to work within the parameters they have.

Mrs. Forestier stated she pointed out to Mr. Zuraf the sites that have had studies that were adjacent to this property and how many sites they found. This property is in the middle and the likelihood of something being there...

Mrs. Baker asked if the developer proffered a Phase 1.

Mrs. Kirby stated no. She stated in 1989 a development called Bolder was submitted and over the years they developers would get amendments. By the time they started building it looks nothing like the original concept. Bolder is now Embrey Mill.

Mrs. Baker stated if the developed was proposing to phase this project over 20 years, why can't they phase doing surveys.

Mrs. Dodd stated they would not have to do the Phase 1 over the entire property; it could be done by section. She stated that would be brought to their attention.

Mrs. Kirby stated in her opinion a thousand acres in Stafford County would have things on that land.

Mr. Chichester asked what the developers were not doing.

Mrs. Dodd stated there was a house site for every family cemetery and there were 4 cemeteries and the potential to get information about the people who lived there, the possibility of Civil War information, the possibility of Native Americans. She stated it does not mean the sites would stop construction and they probably would not need a Phase 2 survey. But a Phase 1 would allow us to connect the information on either side together, so it makes some sense as to the history of that area. Currently we have a hole in the history because there has been no study there. She stated it was all about information and a Phase 1 would provide that.

Mr. Chichester stated the letter from the Commission should request them to have a Phase 1 done.

Mrs. Kirby and Mrs. Dodd agreed.

Mrs. Dodd stated she could use those arguments to explain why the Commission thinks a Phase 1 was needed.

Mrs. Baker informed the Commission this project was going back before the Planning Commission on April 22, 2015.

Mrs. Dodd stated the letter should be sent out before that date.

Mrs. Baker stated the Planning Commission may or may not take action on that night because they are running up against time limits. It would still have to go before the Board of Supervisors.

Mrs. Dodd asked if the Commission could be involved or informed as early as possible. She stated staff had requested a Phase 1 but the Commission has not had the opportunity to reinforce the request.

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Mrs. Kirby stated in her opinion it was imperative a Phase 1 was done in this property because there were too many things that were unknown about it.

Mrs. Dodd stated her reason for getting the letters out was that the Commission was on record for having given their recommendations and thoughts.

Mr. Chichester made a motion to write a letter to the developer and request a Phase 1 on the property.

Mrs. Kirby seconded.

Mrs. Dodd stated she wanted to include all of the Commission's concerns in the letter. She reviewed the items she had, which were the cemeteries and make sure they would follow to the Ordinance. Talk about the Phase 1 and the reasons why the Commission feels it is needed.

Mrs. Kirby stated there was a period in time where a lot of the property in there was owned by families and they all farmed it. When you look at it and follow through, it was a time when we had a dip in the economy and people lost their property because someone with money came in and bought it for taxes.

Mrs. Dodd asked the family names attached to the standing buildings located there.

Mrs. Forester stated it was on the Randall plat and she had the information upstairs.

Mrs. Dodd asked Mrs. Forester to forward that information to her.

Mr. Pitts asked about the churches located on the property.

Mrs. Dodd stated Ramoth Baptist Church was still there and their graveyard was across the street.

Mrs. Kirby stated there were 2 older churches before Ramoth.

Mrs. Dodd stated those churches were not on this property.

Mr. Pitts stated older buildings but the same church.

Mrs. Dodd stated yes, but they were outside the boundary of their property. She asked if there was anything else that needs to be in the letter. She stated she would get a draft letter out to the Commission members for review and comments. She stated she also needed to know who to address the letter to and all the people included in the copies.

Mrs. Baker stated she would get that information.

Mrs. Forestier showed the Commission a plat and pointed out the lots the applicant did not own.

Mrs. Dodd stated it could be individual graves but she thought it was a boarder cemetery.

Mrs. Forestier pointed out the DHR numbers on the plat and showed the gap by not including this property.

Mrs. Dodd asked for a copy of the plat.

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Mrs. Forestier suggested mentioning there was an off-site graveyard that could be impacted by the location of the roads.

Mrs. Dodd stated she is thinking the cemetery shown on the parcel that they don't own is the cemetery that was supposed to have been moved when I-95 was constructed. She stated there are no records from the early 1960s.

Mr. Chichester asked if this was the property that was left to the slaves when the owner died.

Mrs. Kirby stated they were not slaves, they were his children. She stated he was black and she was white.

Mrs. Dodd stated she would write the letter and send a draft to the Commission members for review and comments. She stated there was a motion and a second and asked for all those in favor of sending a letter concerning George Washington Village to say aye.

The motion passed 5 – 0 (Mrs. Conner and Mrs. Best-Rolls were absent).

3. Old Dominion Village Cultural Resources

Mrs. Forestier stated Old Dominion Village was near State Shop Road.

Mrs. Dodd stated the best map was the surveyors plat and the cultural resources have been highlighted. She stated there was a spring house close to Jefferson Davis Highway and there was a photograph located on the back. She stated the applicant is stating there was nothing on the property and did not believe a Phase 1 was required. Again she would recommend sending a letter because of the potential of Civil Wars sites on the property. She stated Stafford Town Station, which was the larger parcel behind this parcel did a Phase 1 and does have Civil War sites. She also recommended recordation of the spring house because it would disappear during construction.

Mrs. Forestier stated the applicant was going to give a right-of-way dedication to the State for widening Route 1. But she pointed this area out to the planner and she suggested perhaps they could buy a right-of-way on the other side of the road and leave the spring house and wetlands.

Mrs. Dodd asked if that would be a comment that should come from the Commission.

Mrs. Forestier suggested asking for avoidance of the spring house in an attempt to save it.

Mrs. Dodd stated if they were not going to save the spring house it would need to be recorded and have an architectural history done.

Mrs. Kirby asked who the owner was on the property.

Mrs. Forestier stated Kamel Tabbara, he owned Crow's Nest.

Mrs. Dodd asked the Commission members if they had any additional thoughts.

Mrs. Baker asked about the spring house.

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Mrs. Dodd stated it was her guess was that it was a community spring house similar to the one that was in Falmouth.

Mrs. Forestier stated it was shown as a mineral spring on the Shield Map.

Mrs. Dodd stated because it was so close to Route 1 she thought it may have been with a commercial establishment that was there.

Mrs. Kirby suggested talking to Marguerite Williams because she lives in the vicinity and she knows a lot about that area.

Mrs. Dodd stated she would give her a call. She stated it was an intriguing building and it would be nice if as much information about it as possible was obtained as well as information about the entire parcel.

There was a brief discussion concerning Eskimo Hill Diner, the spring house, and the location of the project.

Mrs. Dodd suggested sending a letter that would recommend a Phase 1 because of the possibility of Civil War sites in the vicinity. Also find out more about the spring/mineral house, its history. And she would attempt to gather additional information from Marguerite. And she would ask about the possibility of preserving the spring house.

Mrs. Baker stated at a minimum documentation of the spring house.

Mrs. Dodd asked if there was a deadline.

Mrs. Baker stated it was going to the Planning Commission on the 22nd for their first public hearing.

Mrs. Dodd asked for information of who the letter should go to and any people that would need to be copied. She asked if there was any further discussion. Hearing none she asked for a motion to send the letter.

Mr. Pitts made the motion.

Mr. Rodriguez seconded.

The motion passed 5 – 0 (Mrs. Conner and Mrs. Best-Rolls were absent).

4. Annual Preservation Awards Planning

Mrs. Dodd stated she forgot to ask the Cemetery Committee, but they did not have anyone to nominate. She stated there had been a couple nomination submitted.

Mrs. Kirby stated there was one from the Historic Society.

Mrs. Baker stated Art Hart, because he has done oral history and has given CDs.

Mr. Chichester stated it was his interview with Willis Moncure.

Mrs. Baker stated the Historical Society would have it on their web page, but currently the libraries have copies.

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Mr. Pitts stated Mr. Hart raises a small plat at the White Oak Museum where he raises tobacco, field peas and corn.

Mrs. Baker stated last year General Christmas was nominated because he was head of the fund raising part of the 350th. But the Planning Commission stated now that the 350th was actually over, the entire effort should be recognized, if the Commission agreed. She stated there was a Blue Ribbon Committee, that Harry Crisp, Cessie Howell, Charlie Jett, Ann Chichester, Kathy Yoblonski at the hospital, Dr. Schwartz, David Kerr, Mike Neuhard, Mike Lovett and Bob Gibbons were the primary committee. She stated there were a lot of volunteers also, but she suggested doing the entire effort and having the Blue Ribbon Committee be the ones to accept. She stated there was an Educational Committee, the Legacy Committee and all the different aspects.

Mrs. Dodd stated she thought it would be more appropriate to do the whole Committee.

Mrs. Baker stated they are being recommended for the National Association of Counties Award as well. She stated there were 10 or 12 signs that were posted and there were dedication ceremonies.

Mrs. Kirby asked what award they would be under.

Mrs. Baker stated there was a Preservation Award, which was an individual or group or developer, who has preserved, rehabilitated or restored a Stafford County historical cultural resource. Then there is the Homeowner Preservation Award, where a homeowner had restored, preserved or rehabbed buildings or expanded knowledge of a building through extensive research, archeology, etcetera. Then there is a Landscape Award, which is an individual, developer, organization or group that has established, restored, and/or maintained a historic garden, structure or a landscape. And then the Volunteer Award which is an individual who is dedicated and committed to educate the public and/or conduct research.

Mrs. Dodd stated she thought Art would fall into the Volunteer Award and the Preservation Award for the Blue Ribbon Committee.

Mr. Pitts agreed.

Mrs. Baker asked if the Commission had any recommendation.

The Commission members stated they did not.

Mrs. Baker stated she would be happy to contact the nominees and Mrs. Best-Rolls would continue to get the plaques.

Mrs. Dodd stated the Commission voted to use the same plaque design. She stated it would be held in the second May meeting which was the 19th. The reception would be at 6 o'clock and refreshments would be handled the same way.

Mrs. Baker stated yes.

There was a brief discussion concerning what refreshment to serve. It was decided a cake, punch, cheese, crackers and grapes would be provided.

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Mrs. Dodd stated the prior winners, the Board of Supervisors and all the groups that were asked to nominate people should be invited.

Mrs. Baker asked if the Commission wanted staff to come up with some wording and present it to the Commission for comments.

The Commission members stated yes.

Mr. Pitts made a motion to accept the 2 nominations.

Mrs. Kirby seconded.

The motion passed 5 – 0 (Mrs. Conner and Mrs. Best-Rolls were absent).

Mrs. Dodd stated she would like to have nametags for the Commission only this year.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

4. CLG Grant Regarding Slavery-Related Resources – Update

Mrs. Baker stated a stakeholder meeting was held March 9th, and a list of approximately 30 sites they were going to document and the 10 additional cemeteries. She stated the stakeholders agreed to the list and Dovetail has started the documentation of the 30 sites in the field.

Mrs. Kirby asked if the Commission could get a copy of the sites.

Mrs. Baker stated yes.

Mrs. Kirby stated she ran across some information on Manuel Johnson's place, Valley View.

Mrs. Baker stated she would have Sarah Poore contact Barbara.

Mrs. Dodd stated she has spoken with Sarah concerning the cemetery on property was not a slave cemetery.

Mrs. Baker stated she thought there was a structure there.

Mrs. Dodd stated she could not say because she has only been to the cemetery.

Mrs. Kirby showed some pictures of what used to be the end of Walnut Drive, the Daffen House. She stated she received an email which showed the property in 2009 and the structure was still there, but she believed it was in disrepair. She showed an additional picture of the store on Toluca Road.

Mrs. Dodd stated she interviewed Mr. Holmes.

Mrs. Kirby showed another picture of Doc Stone's house.

Mrs. Baker asked the Committee to excuse her because she had another meeting at 4:30.

Mrs. Dodd asked the Commission if they had any questions concerning the CLG grant.

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

Mrs. Dodd stated there was nothing new for this Ordinance and moved on to the Chairman's Report.

ADDITIONAL PRESENTATIONS BY THE PUBLIC

None

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Mrs. Dodd stated she did not have anything to report at this time. She asked if the other Commission members had anything to report. Hearing none she moved on to the approval of minutes.

REPORTS BY COMMISSION MEMBERS

None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

November 6, 2014

Mr. Chichester made a motion to approve the November 6, 2014 minutes.

Mrs. Kirby seconded.

The motion passed 5 – 0 (Mrs. Conner and Mrs. Best-Rolls were absent).

February 5, 2015

Mrs. Dodd noted on the first page of the February minutes the year should be 2015.

Mrs. Kirby made a motion to approve the February 5, 2015 minutes with the date correction.

Mr. Rodriguez seconded.

The motion passed 4 – 0 (Mr. Pitts abstained because he was not at the February meeting. Mrs. Conner and Mrs. Best-Rolls were absent).

ADJOURNMENT

Mrs. Dodd stated if there was no other business she would entertain a motion to adjourn.

Mrs. Kirby made a motion to adjourn.

Mr. Pitts seconded.

The motion passed 5 – 0 (Mrs. Conner and Mrs. Best-Rolls were absent).

With no further business to discuss the meeting adjourned at 4:30 p.m.