

STAFFORD COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION MINUTES
May 7, 2015

The meeting of the Stafford County Historical Commission of Thursday, May 7, 2015, 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, Barbara Kirby, Ann Best-Rolls, Richard Chichester, Ken Pitts, and David Rodriguez

MEMBERS ABSENT Jane Conner

STAFF PRESENT Kathy Baker and Denise Knighting

Ms. Dodd called the meeting to order and asked Ms. Knighting to call the roll. With six member present it was determined there was a quorum. Ms. Dodd stated with no public presentations they would move on to new business.

NEW BUSINESS

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

Mr. Mink stated last month's submission completed the 6th Army Corp and he was now moving on to the 9th Army Corp which was camped on both sides of White Oak Road with Little Whim as the headquarters. He stated they were only here from November to February of 1863 and then transferred to southeast Virginia. Their locations are well documented on the maps but no photographs. He stated this month's update includes the 1st Division of the 9th Corp and he will start the 2nd Division of the 9th Corp for next month. He also wanted to pass along some interesting information, approximately 10 years ago the National Park Service consulted with the U. S. Army Corp of Engineers on a permit request for a new subdivision located off of Beagle Road and Truslow Road, close to I95. He stated it was a campsite with hut holes all over the property and the National Parks Service requested the developer consider some mitigation for the Army Corp permit. He stated they did not hear anything more and the project has been dormant. They are now starting up again and as part of the Corp permit process they are setting aside 0.8 of an acre of the campsite and will be preserved but he was not sure if it would be deed restriction or an easement. He stated the developer would also be installing a walking trail and three interpretative signs telling about the camp. He stated he thought the signs were being done by Virginia Civil War Trails Project.

Ms. Dodd asked the name of the project.

Mr. Mink stated it was either Wellspring Heights or Wellington Heights. He stated that will be another campsite set aside within the subdivision with signage. He stated it would have been the Second Union 2nd Corp. He stated it was nice that a decade went by and the federal permit process was actually going to bear some fruit. He stated he did not know if there was any language to keep swing sets out of the campsite. He stated he would pass along any additional information he gets on the project.

Ms. Dodd asked if anyone had any questions.

Ms. Best-Rolls arrived at 3:16.

Ms. Dodd thanked Mr. Mink for the update.

STAFFORD COUNTY
HISTORICAL COMMISSION MINUTES
May 7, 2015

Ms. Baker asked how far along the report was.

Mr. Mink stated approximately 60 percent.

Mrs. Kirby asked Mr. Mink if he had gone through any deeds at the Fredericksburg Courthouse that mentioned the destruction of the property.

Mr. Mink stated that they did with the Town.

Ms. Kirby stated she finds it in deeds sometimes when doing debt title search, it will reference that the deed was destroyed during the recent unpleasantness and that they had diligently looked for it but their home was destroyed.

Mr. Mink stated in Fredericksburg they have come across some things where they mention in a physical description of a property and its lack of value because the improvements are gone.

Mr. Pitts inquired if Mr. Mink ever looked at the claims.

Mr. Mink stated they did all the time. He stated that the claims files were helpful due to the large number of affidavits.

2. Foxchase Development

Ms. Dodd stated that she had attended the TRC regarding the Foxchase development which was going in where the Brown's Motel used to be, across from Drew Middle School. She stated that the development had been proposed several years ago, but came to a stop and is now being started up again. She stated that the Historical Commission had written a recommendation for the study of the existing buildings and she wanted to make sure that the information was still in the works. She stated that she spoke with the engineer and she felt that he was amenable to the Commission's recommendations. She further stated that the engineer asked her to send him an architectural description. She further stated that she asked the engineer to keep one of the buildings there possibly by arranging the open space to where the building was located, but she was also not opposed to moving one of the buildings to the open space area to be used as a community center for example. She suggested to save the building with the three entrances and a huge high peak gothic roof over the entrance way. Mr. Chichester stated that his grandfather used to own that building.

Ms. Kirby inquired whether there was going to be a phase 1. Ms. Dodd explained that she was not asking for a phase 1, but for an architectural description on the complex.

Ms. Best-Rolls inquired what kind of buildings were going up. Ms. Dodd believed that it was supposed to be townhouses as well as some commercial, but asked Ms. Baker to confirm. Ms. Baker stated that she believed that originally there were plans to put commercial in, but those plans had been cancelled since.

Ms. Dodd stated that Ms. Bohmke attended the meeting as well and was very excited about Ms. Dodd's suggestion to save one of the buildings. Ms. Dodd felt that Ms. Bohmke would be able to influence the final decision on whether the building would be saved. Mr. Chichester added that the buildings used to all be cabins and that they didn't start putting those types of buildings in till later. Ms. Dodd stated that there was a mix of buildings, and that the ones with the gothic roof were the older ones. She further

STAFFORD COUNTY
HISTORICAL COMMISSION MINUTES
May 7, 2015

pointed out that the motels along Route 1 were built to accommodate the rising number of visitors due to automobiles being more available to people and the roads being updated.

Ms. Kirby made a motion to send the architectural description consisting of photographs and measured drawings of each type of building, as well as a site plan showing the relationship of each building to each other, and a description of the materials to the engineer for consideration. She further stated that the commission should be specific on which type of building they would like to see saved, which in her opinion should be the one with the three roofs across the front.

Mr. Pitts seconded the motion.

Ms. Kirby inquired were the drawings were being kept. Ms. Dodd explained that they would be in report-form similar to a phase 1 report. She stated that the drawings would be done on CAD. She suggested having the original drawings submitted to the County.

Ms. Dodd called for the vote. The motion passed 6-0.

3. Virginia Department of Historic Resources, Updated Permit Application for Archaeological Excavation of Human Remains

Ms. Dodd stated that the state has added a section in their application for the excavation of human remains and where they would be put after excavation. She further stated that she felt that the all-around application was much better. There were no further comments or questions from the Commission.

4. Archeological Report for the Expansion of the Ammo Supply at Quantico

Ms. Dodd reminded that the expansion was compromising the Mountjoy Cemetery. Ms. Dodd asked Ms. Baker if the report mentioned where the remains were being moved to. Ms. Baker stated that she had just received the report and had not been able to look at it, but was wondering why the report was dated November 2013. Ms. Dodd stated that that's when the report had been done. She further explained that the actual project had been finished back in the fall of 2014. Ms. Dodd further stated that she had spoken with Kate Roberts, the archeologist for Quantico base, who had initially informed her that they were going to avoid the cemetery and turn it into a land lot that was not very accessible, but when she spoke with Ms. Roberts again several month later, she was told that the remains had been moved to Cedar Run.

Ms. Baker pointed out a section from the report which stated that all graves within the cemetery appeared to have been relocated and were not active or maintained. It further stated that MCBQ records showed that the graves had been moved to Cedar Run cemetery. The report also stated that the area had been flagged off and GPS points recorded, furthermore the contractor was to be instructed to avoid the cemetery, and in case any remains would be found during construction, he would have to stop construction and the archaeologist would have to be informed. According to the report the site would no longer be accessible once construction around the cemetery was complete.

Ms. Best-Rolls pointed out the cemetery removal list which was attached in the report, which confirmed that the graves had in fact been moved back in 1942.

Ms. Dodd stated that the Cemetery Committee was receiving a lot of calls from people looking to find

STAFFORD COUNTY
HISTORICAL COMMISSION MINUTES
May 7, 2015

out where their family member's remains had been moved. Ms. Kirby and Ms. Dodd agreed that having removal reports would definitely help.

Ms. Dodd stated that removal records were sort of scattered and that she tried to contact the company who did the removals on base, but they were no longer in existence and neither were their records.

Mr. Chichester asked if the Commission had to take any action regarding the Mountjoy cemetery. Ms. Dodd stated that this was only for the commission's information.

Mr. Chichester felt that Cedar Run was not being maintained. Ms. Dodd agreed that there were some problems with some of the sections of the cemetery caused by rain, however she felt that the cemetery was better taken care of now than it used to be. Ms. Kirby stated that she had seen several letters from John Porter to the General at the base stating that the upkeep of the cemetery was one of the requirements.

Ms. Dodd stated that the Historical Commission was a consulting party for things that happen on the base that concerned cultural resources, which is why they received those reports.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

5. Annual Preservation Awards Planning

Ms. Dodd asked if the plaques for the award ceremony were in yet. Ms. Best-Rolls stated that she went to the company and they need to still add "volunteers" on the plaques. She showed last year's plaque and explained that they should go one size up for the 350th group. Ms. Baker explained that the plaques had more language on it which required a larger format. Ms. Best-Rolls stated that the 350th had been a huge effort with many groups, so there would not be 20-30 people getting awards. She asked for the Commission for their opinion. Ms. Dodd stated that her only concern was that the language had to fit on the plaque without appearing too squeezed in, which meant they would have to go with the larger one. Ms. Best-Rolls agreed that visually the larger plaque was the better choice. She further stated that individuals would still receive the smaller plaque. Ms. Baker asked if they Commission to have all plaques the same size. The Commission voted 6-0 to stick with the different size plaques.

Ms. Baker asked the Commission for guidance on how much food to provide for the ceremony. She added that 102 invitations had been sent out. Ms. Kirby stated that there was a lot of food left at last year's ceremony. There was a brief discussion regarding what should be provided for the ceremony.

Ms. Baker reminded the Commission that the pre-award reception would take place on May 19th at 6 PM in the ABC conference room and following that Ms. Dodd would give the actual presentation in the Board Chambers. Ms. Baker asked Ms. Dodd if Jerrilynn got with her on Art's piece of the presentation. Ms. Dodd stated she did although it wasn't much, but inquired about a CD she was supposed to receive. Ms. Kirby stated that that the CDs were available at the library.

Ms. Dodd suggested having name tags for the Commission members only. She further suggested that Commissioners would take turns standing at the door greeting people.

6. CLG Grant Regarding Slavery-Related Resources - Update

STAFFORD COUNTY
HISTORICAL COMMISSION MINUTES
May 7, 2015

Ms. Dodd stated that she had gone out to Hunters Iron Works with Dovetail for some survey work the previous Monday. She explained that they were only able to find one wall. She stated that somebody had put rip rap up against the foundation probably to protect it from flooding, so they were unable to get to the foundation. Ms. Dodd felt that it was probably done by the city, but she was not certain. Ms. Dodd stated that she took photographs of the site.

Ms. Dodd stated that Dovetail had basically finished their survey work. Ms. Baker presented an email she had received from one of Dovetails subcontractors, Mr. Dennis Pogue, stating that they had found an opportunity to further document the Sanford-Burgess quarter. The email further stated that they had made contact with the Virginia Foundation for the Humanities who were developing content for their ongoing project to prepare an online resource known as the Encyclopedia of Virginia in which visuals of slave quarters were also being added. Mr. Pogue stated that they would be accompanying him to several buildings in the area and he was hoping to include Sherwood Forest and Sanford Burgess. He further explained that there would be an educational module on slave quarters on the website, but for the time being videos were linked to the page. Mr. Pogue suggested looking at Clermont Farm videos to get a sense of what it would look like.

Ms. Dodd stated that Clermont was a national park but it was not a traditional park and was owned by park service but was being administered and funded by a private non-profit organization.

Ms. Kirby asked if Sanford-Burgess was part of Celebrate VA and whether there were any proffers on the land. Ms. Baker stated that the property had been sold to the County as part of the reservoir, and that she was not aware of any proffers. Ms. Kirby stated that she would bring in a report, which showed the proffers.

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

There was no discussion on item number 7.

Ms. Dodd asked if any member of the Commission had anything they wanted to discuss.

Ms. Kirby inquired about Mt. Pisgah Church on Route 1. Ms. Dodd stated that it was in private hands and that the church was a case of demolition by neglect. Ms. Baker stated that the Architectural Review Board (ARB) had a discussion regarding property maintenance and were very interested in recommending to the Board a property maintenance ordinance to try to address issues like neglect of properties. She further stated that it had been unsuccessfully taken to the Board before, and that they were going to try again.

Ms. Dodd felt it would be nice if the Historic Commission and the ARB should work together more closely. She stated that she had mentioned that a couple of years ago, but nothing ever moved forward. She suggested for each party to have a representative to attend the other party's meeting. Ms. Baker suggested joint meetings.

Ms. Dodd asked who the Chairman was for the ARB. Ms. Baker stated that it was Paul Eakin. Ms. Dodd stated she would contact Mr. Eakin to discuss.

Ms. Dodd stated that she spoke with Jamie from Parks & Rec regarding the management and perpetual

***STAFFORD COUNTY
HISTORICAL COMMISSION MINUTES
May 7, 2015***

care of county owned cultural resources. Ms. Dodd suggested that Jamie come to a Historical Commission meeting at least once a year and assist them in getting a budget for the maintenance of cultural resources. Ms. Baker informed that the budget is generally submitted in in October, so the meeting should take place well before that. Ms. Dodd stated that she would like to invite Jamie to the next meeting to discuss.

ADDITIONAL PRESENTATIONS BY THE PUBLIC

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

REPORTS BY COMMISSION MEMBERS

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

April 2, 2015

Ms. Dodd asked if there were any corrections or comments.

Mrs. Kirby stated she had one correction on line 128; there was no 'e' in Greenhow. With no other corrections she made a motion to approve the minutes with corrections.

Mr. Chichester seconded the motion.

The motion passed 6 – 0 (Mrs. Connor was absent).

Mr. Pitts asked if there were any more Scheel maps for sale.

Ms. Dodd stated they were downstairs in the GIS Department.

Ms. Baker stated she also had some folded ones in her office.

Ms. Dodd stated the Cemetery Committee was having a Memorial Day Service at 2 o'clock in front of the Courthouse honoring Master Sargent David Grey.

Ms. Best-Rolls asked how the Cemetery Committee got involved with this.

Ms. Dodd stated this would be the 4th one they have had and explained the 1st one was for Robert Jones, who was buried in Hartwood. She stated she received a call from a gentleman in France asking about Mr. Jones. She stated Mr. Jones was considered to be a hero because he was instrumental in keeping the bridge from Germans. She stated last year they commemorated 3 Stafford residents from the War of 1812 that were buried in Aquia.

Ms. Baker asked Ms. Dodd if she would like the information on the County website.

Ms. Dodd stated she was talking with Shannon Howell.

ADJOURNMENT

***STAFFORD COUNTY
HISTORICAL COMMISSION MINUTES
May 7, 2015***

Mrs. Kirby made a motion to adjourn.

Mr. Rodriguez seconded.

The motion passed 6 – 0 (Mrs. Connor was absent).

With no further business to discuss the meeting adjourned at 4:23 p.m.