

STAFFORD COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION MINUTES
July 2, 2015

The meeting of the Stafford County Historical Commission of Thursday, July 2, 2015, was called to order at 3:00 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, Ken Pitts

MEMBERS ABSENT Ann Best-Rolls, Jane Conner, David Rodriguez

STAFF PRESENT Kathy Baker, Amber Forestier, Sylvia Dyson

Ms. Dodd called the meeting to order and asked Ms. Dyson to call the roll. With four members 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 – Erik Mink, National Park Service

Ms. Dodd stated that all members received the email from Mr. Mink informing that he would not be able to attend the July 2nd, 2015 meeting but would submit an update the following week. With no further discussion, the Commission moved on to the next agenda item.

2. Hickory Hill Subdivision Plan

Ms. Dodd stated that the Subdivision had originally been called Bethel Church Estates. She further stated that back in 2004 there had been remains of a house which she had taken photographs of at the time. She explained that according to the developer there were no remains on the site now. Ms. Dodd remembered that back in 2004 the Commission had sent out several letters to the developer asking for an architectural survey of the house remains which was never done. She stated that she had gone to the site with Mr. Mink to determine if there were any Civil War sites present, which there weren't. Ms. Dodd stated that no Phase I or architectural survey had been done. Looking at the newly submitted site plan, Ms. Dodd noticed that there was a road that went over where the house used to be.

Upon Ms. Kirby's inquiry, Ms. Forestier stated that the site was currently being developed by Mr. Gollahon.

Ms. Dodd recommended writing another letter, since the Commission did know that there had in fact been a house there back in 2004, and ask for a Phase I.

Ms. Baker asked if she was referring to the original Hickory Hill house. Ms. Dodd said no. Ms. Forestier clarified that it was only the subdivision that was called Hickory Hill.

Ms. Dodd asked if there was any language on record regarding the original proposal. Ms. Forestier stated that she would be able to look that up and provided it to the Commission.

Ms. Kirby agreed that a letter should be sent requesting a Phase I since this was a project that had formerly been presented to the Commission and the Commission at that point had already expressed their concerns regarding the remains of the house.

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Ms. Baker noted that the County had a PDR easement on the adjacent property.

Ms. Dodd asked for a motion to write a letter requesting a Phase I. Ms. Kirby made the motion which was seconded by Mr. Chichester. The motion passed 4-0.

3. Marlborough Point Road Property, Phase 1A Archaeological Report

Ms. Dodd stated that a Phase 1A had been turned in. Ms. Kirby stated that the State did not accept Phase 1A's only Phase 1's. Ms. Dodd explained that the State had been accepting them recently which they should not have been.

Ms. Dodd gave a little bit of background on the property explaining that there was the possibility of cultural resources including Native American, early County history, Civil War. A 1700 trash pit is located on the parcel just to the west of the project. This indicates that there was a house site nearby. She stated that she had worked on the site for a couple of days as part of an Archeological Society of Virginia project through the Fredericksburg Chapter. She further stated that the property was at one time believed to be a Monroe property, but she was not certain if it was. She stated that the Monroe family certainly did own property along Marlborough Point Road.

Mr. Pitts mentioned that down the road to the right there were Confederate Breastworks which were visible from the road. Ms. Dodd stated that she went to the Technical Review Commission (TRC) meeting when the developers were there and that the developers had mentioned that they would save the Civil War site. She further stated that at that point she also inquired about the house on the property, which, according to the developer, was no longer there.

Ms. Kirby stated that she had spoken with Martha Lynn who had been told that there was an old house site somewhere on the property. Ms. Dodd felt that this was just another reason to request a Phase 1.

Mr. Pitts inquired if there were minutes from the TRC meeting, showing that the developer did state that the Civil War Site would be saved. Ms. Baker stated that there were no minutes taken at the TRC meetings. She further explained that unless the Commission provided comments as part of the historic review, there wouldn't be any record of that. Ms. Dodd stated that she would refer to her attending the TRC meeting when writing a letter to the developer. Ms. Kirby made a motion to write a letter to the developer which was seconded by Mr. Pitts. The motion passed 4-0.

Ms. Dodd added that she would try to have a draft letter to everybody by the following Monday since the developer was trying to move quickly. Ms. Forestier explained that the developer was trying to get the property to the point where they could sell it.

4. Virginia Department of Historic Resources, Virginia's Comprehensive Historic Preservation Plan

Ms. Dodd stated that the Commission had until the 17th of July to make any comments. She further stated that she attended one of the District meetings to get information from preservation minded people. She admitted that she did not read the document word for word; she rather went over the intent and the basic plans. She was concerned that the suggestions made in the document would not necessarily be executed. She did however, after going through the document once more, come across a section of the report that dealt with targeted actions and strategies. She further explained that a lot of the information was gathered from around the State from people that dealt with preservation issues.

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Ms. Kirby read on page 47 of the report that part of being a certified local government was having an historic preservation planner, which, according to Ms. Kirby, they did not have. Ms. Dodd responded that technically there was no historic preservation planner required, having somebody on staff who could deal with preservation issues would do. Ms. Baker agreed.

Ms. Dodd asked if there were any more comments and questions on the report. Ms. Kirby expressed that she would like to see some indication on how the plan would be implemented. Ms. Dodd referred to the "Actions and Strategies" section. Ms. Dodd further added that these types of documents, much like the Comprehensive Plan, are usually very broad and non-specific in order to have room to "wobble" and allow for case by case type decisions. Ms. Dodd further stated that the Preservation Plan could possibly be used as leverage to get State help.

Ms. Kirby inquired about the time line on submitting comments and whether they should be sent to Ms. Dodd. Ms. Dodd didn't think that comments would have to be submitted as a Commission, but could be submitted by individuals. Ms. Baker affirmed that anybody was able to submit comments if they so chose. Ms. Dodd suggested that all comments be sent to Ms. Baker to be submitted through the County. Ms. Baker agreed.

With no further questions or comments from the Commission, they moved on to unfinished business.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

5. CLG Grant Regarding Slavery-Related Resources - Update

Ms. Baker stated that slavery-related report should be wrapping up by July 15th, meaning that a draft document would be provided to the Virginia Department of Historic Resources (DHR) by that date for comments. She explained that once revisions were made by according to DHR comments, if any, the report would be sent to the Commission members and will also be put on the website.

Ms. Dodd inquired regarding further grant money to continue the survey since the archeological portion was taken out due to not enough funds. Ms. Baker stated that there was always an option to ask the Board of Supervisors for funds, she did however point out that the deadline for CLG grant money had already passed for the current year. Upon Ms. Dodd's inquiry Ms. Baker further stated that the deadline was in early June. Mr. Pitts felt that at least the Commission would have enough time to look over what they had so far and what they would like to see added. Ms. Dodd pointed out that there a few things that needed to be further studied, like Falmouth for example. She stated that in this process Falmouth had been designated as slave-related in its entirety and they did not look at individual sites within the district. Ms. Baker stated that since there had been so many different sites identified the plan recommended that further studies should be done, which could be used as a basis by the Commission to request more funds.

Ms. Dodd inquired whether the hours invested by members of the Cemetery Committee could be used towards the matching grant. Ms. Baker stated that they could, however if they wanted to hire a consultant actual funds /cash would be required. She explained that the County, as well as the State put up actual dollar amounts. She stated that in order to achieve 50% the County had to include staff hours.

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

There was no discussion on this item.

ADDITIONAL PRESENTATIONS BY THE PUBLIC

There were no additional presentations.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Ms. Dodd stated that she had talked to Mr. Paul Eakin, Chairman of the Architectural Review Board (ARB), regarding joint meetings. She stated that there had been discussions about this before and there was supposed to be email correspondence between the Historical Commission (HR) and the ARB which did not happen. Ms. Dodd felt that Mr. Eakin was very enthusiastic about the idea and stated that he would talk to the rest of the Board. Ms. Dodd stated that she preferred an actual joint meeting 3 to 4 times a year, rather than just having one single member of each group joining the other group's meeting. Ms. Dodd suggested working out the exact logistics once they hear back from Mr. Eakin. Upon Mr. Pitt's inquiry Ms. Baker explained that any change in days when the meeting is being held would have to be advertised, as well as the by-laws would have to be changed.

Ms. Dodd stated that she spoke to Mr. Emond who had talked to the Commission before regarding the Brent cemetery. She stated that Mr. Emond was able to locate Martha Williams who had been in charge of the archeological work at Brent Cemetery and was in possession of all the artifacts. Ms. Dodd stated that Ms. Williams was in the process of putting her report together. Mr. Edmond said that the findings had been presented to the diocese in D.C. And they were granted \$100,000 over a four year period by the diocese for the preservation. Ms. Dodd further stated that a stone mason, who happened to be the same person who had been working on the Washington Monument, has already been out to the cemetery and didn't think it was in too bad of a shape. Ms. Dodd stated that the archdiocese wanted to make the cemetery active again. According to Ms. Dodd dead trees were being cut down at the moment and Mrs. Williams had received the initial grant to conduct the archeological study from a catholic establishment in Maryland. Ms. Dodd also stated that Ms. Williams could put Mr. Edmond in touch with Maryland since they had a ground radar system which could assist with finding graves.

Ms. Dodd stated that Mr. Emond spoke with the developer who was planning on establishing a 500- to 1,200-foot buffer between the cemetery and the planned housing development. Ms. Forestier pointed out that those were the existing measurements which had already been established previously. In addition the developer would give \$10,000 to the cemetery for preservation, as well as provide a survey to determine the exact property lines, and fix the road leading to the cemetery and add gravel according to Mr. Emond. Ms. Dodd asked County staff whether the information she had received was correct. Ms. Baker stated that it sounded about right, but that the developer would only fix the road entrance and the culvert.

Ms. Dodd stated that according to Mr. Emond the artifacts would go to the archdiocese and they would put them in some sort of museum setting in D.C. or Northern Virginia. She stated that she would like to see the artifacts being returned to Stafford but this was an issue that would have to be dealt with down the road. She added that it was not the Commission's decision to make but she would like to make a recommendation. Ms. Dodd stated that Mr. Emond was the point of contact for anybody who wanted to go in the cemetery and that she had invited him to come to the September meeting to give an update. She stated that he had put together a report for the archdiocese which he will also provide to the Commission.

Ms. Dodd stated that she was contacted by an individual who used to live on the Greenbank Farm and was looking for a single headstone that he had remembered to have been there. Ms. Dodd reiterated that a few years ago the Cemetery Committee was contacted by a person in Texas looking for somebody on the Greenbank Farm from the Revolutionary War, and they were never able to find any kind of cemetery even

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with a Phase I and II. According to Ms. Dodd the individual who recently contacted her stated that he had been to the Farm a number of years ago and noticed that the head stone was gone. Ms. Dodd stated that he seemed to remember that the guy's first name was Phillip but couldn't remember the date on the stone exactly but he believed that it was around 1750. Ms. Dodd presented photographs to the Commission which had been sent to her by the individual explaining that she was not familiar with any of the buildings shown in the pictures. Ms. Dodd suspected that the individual's family was possibly leasing the property back then. She also mentioned that the individual's grandfather's last name was Kay. Mr. Chichester stated that he remembered when the Kay family lived on the farm, but he was not certain if they rented or owned. Ms. Dodd stated that the guy mentioned names like Scott who she was familiar with. Ms. Dodd suspected that the house might have been a tenant house and was long gone by the time the property was bought by Silver. Ms. Dodd only remembered the Sanford house by the cemetery and the slave cabin, as well as a barn and the Charter's house. Ms. Kirby suggested speaking with Mr. Henry Cropp to see if he could assist. Ms. Forestier stated that she would provide Ms. Dodd with the contact information. Ms. Kirby also suggested looking at the old, unrecorded surveys.

Ms. Baker presented a box filled with old documents to the Commission which she received from Steven Hubble, a County employee, when his grandfather, Col. Leu., passed. Ms. Dodd and Ms. Kirby stated that they would inventory the documents and make a list of the contents. Ms. Baker offered that all documents of interest could be scanned and put on CD if desired. Ms. Kirby added that the Historic Society would certainly like to get a copy as well.

REPORTS BY COMMISSION MEMBERS

Mr. Pitts stated that he had taken a tour of the Duff Green House a while back and was curious if the County had any intentions on doing anything with the building. Ms. Baker stated the Commission can inquire with Jamie Porter, who would be attending the next HC meeting.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

May 7, 2015

Ms. Dodd remembered that at last meeting she asked for the name of a subdivision where Civil War preservation was being done Mr. Mink was uncertain whether it was called Wellsprings or Wellington Heights. Ms. Dodd asked if staff could find out and let her know next meeting.

Ms. Dodd also stated that Ms. Kirby was supposed to bring in the proffers that went with Sanford-Burgess. Ms. Kirby stated that she forgot to bring them. Ms. Forestier stated that Sanford-Burgess was part of Celebrate Virginia and that there were different proffers for different sections. Ms. Kirby remembered that the Silver Company put steel beams indicating the outline of the big building, which was also part of the proffers. Ms. Dodd stated that it was never determined what was going to happen to the slave quarters, or who was going to maintain them. She recommended looking at the early proffers to get some clarity. Ms. Forestier stated that there had been a number of changes to the proffers. Ms. Dodd stated that she was particularly interested in what was going to happen with the slave quarters on the property. Ms. Baker stated that Dovetail just went out to the site and should be able to give an update on the condition. She further stated she would try to find out what the County's plans were for the building since it was on County property.

With no further comments from the Commission, Ms. Kirby made a motion to approve the minutes, which was seconded by Mr. Pitts. The motion passed 4-0.

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ADJOURNMENT

Mrs. Pitts made a motion to adjourn.

Ms. Kirby seconded.

The motion passed 4 – 0.

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