

***STAFFORD COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION MINUTES***  
***November 5, 2015***

The meeting of the Stafford County Historical Commission of Thursday, November 5, 2015, was called to order at 3:01 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 and Ken Pitts

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

STAFF PRESENT: Kathy Baker and Denise Knighting

GUESTS PRESENT: Darin Ramey, Parks and Recreation  
Chris Stevens, Parks and Recreation  
Tim Baroody, Deputy County Administrator

Mrs. Dodd called the meeting to order and asked Ms. Kirby to call the roll. With four members present it was determined there was a quorum. Ms. Dodd asked if there were any public presentations, hearing none she moved on to new business.

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS

None

NEW BUSINESS

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

Mrs. Dodd stated Mr. Mink could not attend the meeting.

Ms. Baker stated she would forward his monthly report to the Commission members.

2. Sanford Slave Quarters and Cemetery – Discussion

Mrs. Dodd stated this was a new issue that has just come up at the new reservoir. She stated a slave cabin was identified in the Slave Survey Study and it was discussed at the Board of Supervisors meeting. They discussed it was very important and was located on County owned property and suggested something should be done to save it and the Board expressed an interest in doing that. She stated she had a conversation with Doug Sanford and Dennis Pogue about the possibilities of how to treat the cabin. She stated her initial concern was the area was going to be a park, but she had since discovered it would be a non-recreational park, for fishing and boating.

Mr. Stevens stated it would be similar to Mott's Run, with kayak and john boat rentals, fishing and trails with the possibility of a nature center in the future.

Mrs. Dodd stated that eases her mind and she stated there was a movement concerning the termite damage.

Ms. Baker introduced Tim Baroody, the Deputy County Administrator, who is taking the lead on this discussion since it came up at the Board meeting.

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Mr. Baroody stated he stated he spoke with Kerri Barile and got her advice on near term next steps. He then reached out to Joe Wilson at Perm-A-Treat, and they have agreed to sponsor termite treatment at no cost to the County and they are also including a 5-year warranty on their treatment. They should be out to the site Monday or Tuesday next week to evaluate and schedule treatment. He stated there was also a discussion concerning bush-hogging the property and getting the weeds down close to the property. He stated they did not want to have the property completely open, and it would be done in a way that is sensitive to the property and also keep the vegetation down around the structure. There was discussion concerning a potential canopy to protect the structure for many years to come. He suggested with the help of the Commission a concept could be created to work to fund the canopy structure, but that would be future discussion after the near term items were completed.

Mrs. Dodd stated in her opinion the things that are the priorities were the termite treatment, of course, but there also needs to be some way to keep the building from further deterioration, which would mean either enclosing it somehow to protect it from the weather or possibly dismantling and storing it to be put back up by someone who knows what they are doing. She stated Dennis Pogue did know someone who does that type of work. She felt if the structure was left in the weather for another year, it would not last.

Mr. Baroody stated he shared that concern also, and he suggested bringing people back to the structure to have a conversation. He stated there has not been any serious consideration of disassembling the structure, because people are fearful that it may not go back together.

Mrs. Dodd stated Dennis and Doug have some experience and they are architectural historians. She suggested Gary Stanton, who recently retired from the college, but was still in town. She stated in her opinion Mr. Baroody would need to talk to these kinds of people to get all the options on the table and figure out what would work best for both the County and the building.

Mr. Baroody stated he agreed and stated he hoped the Commission would be at the table as well.

Mrs. Dodd stated yes.

Mr. Baroody stated Kerri also had some names that she offered and she mentioned some folks who have expertise in creating internal structures to stabilize structures like this. He stated you could essentially bolt the old structure to a new hidden internal structure. He stated no one was making any recommendations yet, but there are different ways to go about it. He stated with the help of Ms. Baker, they could get a group of people onsite to have a conversation in the next couple of weeks.

Mrs. Dodd stated she was happy they County was moving forward with trying to save this building because it was very important.

Mr. Chichester asked how to get to the building.

Mr. Baroody stated with the new infrastructure the County built related to the dam and the water treatment plant, there was an access road that brings you with a couple hundred feet of the structure.

Mrs. Dodd asked how far from the building was the cemetery.

Mr. Baroody stated he has not seen the cemetery, but he read the reports and it looks like it was within a couple hundred feet. He stated the foundation to the old Sanford home was there as well.

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Mrs. Kirby stated Ms. Baker passed out a report done by Silver in 2007 and you can see what has happened in just a few years. She stated she was please this was being done also.

Mrs. Dodd thanked Mr. Baroody for coming to the meeting and moved on to the next item on the agenda.

3. Shelton's Cottage Improvements – Update

Mrs. Dodd stated she understood Parks and Recreation was going to do some restoration on the Shelton Cottage. She stated Gary Stanton went to the property in 2010 and did a description of the building and also took some photographs.

Mr. Ramey stated they thought the hardware on the door may by original but they were not sure about the door itself. He stated they could have the contractor just replace the bottom of the door where the wood was rotten.

Mrs. Dodd asked that they record any work that was done.

Mr. Ramey stated they would.

Ms. Baker informed the Commission that the ARB wanted a COA for the work to be done and they also wanted them to maintain the material that is currently there.

4. Pratt Park Phase II Survey – Review

Mrs. Dodd stated she received an email concerning a Phase 2 Architectural Survey because they are putting in a waterline. She stated the report also identifies a site that could be a slave quarter or part of the Civil War, but they were not directly in the site location of the waterline. She stated she would write a letter to Utilities stated the Commission concurs with the findings, and support an archaeologist on site during excavation.

5. Architectural Survey - Enon Road Construction Project

Ms. Baker stated the report showed what was in the area and the improvements suggested.

Mrs. Dodd asked if all the buildings shown in the report would be removed.

Mrs. Forestier stated it was her understanding 1 parcel with a mobile home would be purchased to install a stormwater pond. She stated the project was to straighten and widen that area of the road.

6. Courthouse Manor Phase II Survey – Review

Mrs. Dodd stated she would send a thank you letter and asked the Commission if they wanted to review the letter.

Mrs. Kirby stated Mrs. Dodd could just send the letter.

7. Widewater State Park Phase I Survey – Review

Mrs. Dodd stated she had no issues except the indication of a cemetery. She stated it was surveyed or

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marked on the Scheel map.

Mrs. Kirby asked if it was the Tolson cemetery.

Mrs. Dodd stated it was possibly a slave cemetery.

Ms. Baker stated that was outside the scope of this project and suggested the Commission let them know there was a possibility of a cemetery in the area.

Mrs. Dodd stated she would write a letter to inform them of the possibility of a cemetery. She stated she would also ask about site numbers in the letter.

Mrs. Kirby made a motion to approve sending a letter.

Mr. Chichester seconded.

The motion passed 4 – 0 (Mrs. Best-Rolls, Mrs. Conner and Dr. Rodriguez were absent).

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

8. Bloomington Signage/Flyers

Mrs. Dodd asked if any information was received.

Ms. Baker reminded Mrs. Dodd that she and Mrs. Kirby said they would consult with Jerrilynn Eby-MacGreogor and would be working with Parks and Receptions on the project.

Mr. Chichester asked what they wanted to do at Bloomington.

Mrs. Dodd stated they wanted to clean the area up and install signs to tell about the history of the area. She stated they were also going to have a kiosk with pamphlets with information about the cemetery, the remains of the house and kitchen and part of Patawomek Park. She apologized for not following up and stated she would work on the information.

9. Falmouth Master Interpretive Plan Implementation

Ms. Baker referred back to the October minutes and reminded the Commission that Mrs. Dodd had asked each of them to review the report to discuss it at the next meeting. She stated the way-finding signs were larger than the directional signs. She stated the first step was writing up some information on the properties.

Mrs. Dodd suggested the possibility of once complete the information could be available through phone apps.

Ms. Baker stated self-guided walking tours could be a short term achievable goal, but writing a summary for the properties needs to be done first. She stated Parks and Recreation was ready for the information.

Mrs. Dodd stated she would write up a summary and then send that to the Commission members for

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their review and input.

Mr. Pitts asked what was needed to start.

Mrs. Dodd stated Ms. Baker would send a list.

10. George Washington Village Cultural Resources Survey

Mrs. Dodd stated the report deals with cemeteries and architectural elements. But it was not clear on the Ball-Lunsford and the Ball-Stockton Cemeteries. She stated they would have to establish a 35 foot buffer per the cemetery ordinance. She stated she would caution them about doing anything in the area and recommend more investigation. She stated it was quite possible this was one a big parcel that was broken up the dot locating the cemetery never changed because they could not locate anything that indicates a cemetery.

Ms. Baker stated the George Washington Village project applicant was proposing to reduce the number of homes and redesign the project.

Mrs. Dodd suggested the Commission wait and see before making any comments.

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

No discussion was held on this item.

ADDITIONAL PRESENTATIONS BY THE PUBLIC

None

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Mrs. Dodd stated she received a report from Mr. Emond with an update on the Brent cemetery. The report stated the committee was moving forward and working with Martha Williams. Ms. Williams had the artifacts and they held a field mass on October 24. She stated she suggested the first thing to be done would be delineation. She then moved on the Rappahannock Landing and stated she received a Cultural Resource Management Plan. The developer will install a temporary fence with signs stated the area was sensitive and do not disturb and would install a split rail fence and signs when the project was finished. She suggested they install interpretative signs stated what the sites were, even though they had already been compromised. She stated she would write a letter.

Mrs. Kirby made a motion to approve sending a letter.

Mr. Pitts seconded.

The motion passed 4 – 0 (Mrs. Best-Rolls, Mrs. Conner and Dr. Rodriguez were absent).

Mrs. Dodd moved on to the Abberly cemetery and stated she thought it was a slave cemetery but all the bodies had been moved and they were not slaves. She stated they were relocated to the Old Register Chapel.

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Mrs. Dodd stated she attended the October ARB meeting and stated they were agreeable to a joint meeting and a schedule would be worked out at the beginning of the year.

Ms. Baker stated the ARB was working on a Property Maintenance Code for Historic Districts.

REPORTS BY COMMISSION MEMBERS

Mrs. Kirby stated she wanted to let everyone know Mr. Chichester received an award.

Mr. Chichester stated it was the Virginia Livestock Hall of Fame.

The Commission members congratulated Mr. Chichester.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

July 2, 2015

Mrs. Dodd asked if there were any comments on the July 2, 2015 minutes.

Mrs. Kirby made a motion to approve the July 2<sup>nd</sup> minutes as presented.

Mr. Chichester seconded.

The motion passed 4 – 0 (Mrs. Best-Rolls, Mrs. Conner and Dr. Rodriguez were absent).

September 3, 2015

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

Mr. Pitts seconded.

The motion passed 4 – 0 (Mrs. Best-Rolls, Mrs. Conner and Dr. Rodriguez were absent).

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to discuss the meeting was adjourned at 4:33 p.m.