

STAFFORD COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION MINUTES
January 7, 2016

The meeting of the Stafford County Historical Commission of Thursday, January 7, 2016, was called to order at 3:08 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, Ken Pitts, David Rodriguez and Ann Best-Rolls (late)

MEMBERS ABSENT: Barbara Kirby and Jane Conner

STAFF PRESENT: Kathy Baker and Denise Knighting

GUESTS PRESENT: None

Mrs. Dodd called the meeting to order and asked Ms. Knighting to call the roll. With four members present it was determined there was a quorum. Ms. Dodd stated since there were no public presentations and Mr. Mink was present, they would move on to new business first and come back to the election of officers.

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS

None

ORGANIZE COMMISSION

- Election of Chairperson
- Election of Vice Chairperson
- Election of Secretary

Elections were held after discussion of the Civil War Database Update.

NEW BUSINESS

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

Mr. Mink thanked the Commission for inviting him to visit the Sanford slave quarters instead of holding their meeting. He stated he submitted an update last month, which was the beginning of the 12th Army Corp camps, north and west of the Courthouse. He stated he was off for a couple weeks during the holidays and did not have anything for this month, but he would finish up the 12th Corp next month. He stated that would take care of the infantry for the Army of the Potomac from 1862 to 1863 and he would then move on to the cavalry. He stated once completed he would make revision based on the comments received. He asked if there were any questions.

Mrs. Dodd stated the Commission appreciated the work done and was glad he has been receiving comments.

ORGANIZE COMMISSION

- Election of Chairperson

Mrs. Dodd handed the meeting over the Ms. Baker for the Election of Chairperson.

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Ms. Baker opened the floor for nominations.

Mr. Chichester made a motion to nominate Mrs. Dodd for Chairperson.

Mrs. Dodd stated she would accept the nomination.

With no other nominations, Ms. Baker closed the nominations and held the vote.

The motion passed 4-0 (Mrs. Kirby, Mrs. Conner and Ms. Best-Rolls were absent).

Ms. Baker handed the meeting over to Mrs. Dodd.

-Election of Vice Chairperson

Mrs. Dodd opened the floor for nominations for Vice-Chairman.

Mr. Pitts made a motion to nominate Mr. Chichester for Vice-Chairman.

Mr. Chichester stated he would accept the nomination.

With no other nominations, the motion passed 4-0 (Mrs. Kirby, Mrs. Conner and Ms. Best-Rolls were absent).

-Election of Secretary

Mrs. Dodd stated Mrs. Kirby was currently the Secretary and she was not present to accept the nomination if the Commission was inclined to nominate her.

Ms. Baker stated the Commission could defer that nomination until the February meeting.

Dr. Rodriguez asked if the nomination could be held and vote and if Mrs. Kirby did not agree, they could hold another election at the next meeting.

Ms. Baker stated she was not sure, but if the Commission wanted to do that and it could be redone next month if necessary.

Mrs. Dodd stated the nomination would be held open until next month. She then moved on to Saddle Ridge Slave Quarter.

2. Saddle Ridge Slave Quarters

Mrs. Dodd stated that this site was not familiar to her at all and that she received only a little bit of information from Ms. Forestier. She was under the impression that there was someone from CRI, which was a cultural resource management firm, went to the site and identified slave quarters at the location. She didn't think that a report was ever done, or if it was, the Commission never received a copy. Mrs. Dodd further explained that CRI had in the meantime been absorbed by a larger engineering firm and that Ms. Forestier had so far not been successful in contacting anyone who had actually been at the site at the time of the survey. Mrs. Dodd added that the parcel was getting ready to be developed and that the neighbor had some

information where the quarters were supposed to be located. Mrs. Dodd stated that she would contact the neighbor once Ms. Forestier provided her with the contact information. She explained that the parcel was located off of Hartwood Road on the southern end of Hartwood Road, close to Route 17.

Ms. Baker added that the name she had was Tim Kelly, who lived next to the property and had contacted Supervisor Snellings regarding the slave quarters, but she was uncertain if that was the same person Ms. Forestier was referring to.

Ms. Dodd inquired whether Bridalwood Estates was abutting the property. Ms. Baker clarified that the property was off of Hartwood Road and also touched Warrenton Road. She added that the tax map parcel number was 35-41 and 42.

Mrs. Dodd asked the Commission to let her know if they were interested in visiting the site so she could let the neighbor know they were coming out to the property. Ms. Baker felt that they should contact the actual property owner and not just the neighbor. Mrs. Dodd agreed and asked Ms. Baker to provide the contact information. Ms. Baker stated she would get the information from Ms. Forestier.

Mrs. Dodd stated that she had also been talking with Dovetail regarding an 18th century house site in the same general location of where the slave quarters were supposed to be, and that she would talk with Dovetail again to see if it was in fact the same location.

Mr. Pitts pointed out that it appeared that a lot of clearing had been done at the site. Mrs. Dodd believed that he was looking at an agricultural field and not site work. Ms. Baker was unsure.

Ms. Baker reiterated that Mrs. Dodd would contact Dovetail again and that she would in the meantime gather the contact information for the owner as well as the neighbor. Ms. Baker stated that Stantec & WEG, Williamsburg Environmental Group, were the ones who incorporated CRI.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

3. Bloomington Signage/Flyers

Mrs. Dodd stated that she was still working on the signage and flyers and was hoping to have it done by next meeting. Ms. Baker asked if Mrs. Dodd had the write up from Jerrilynn. Mrs. Dodd confirmed and added that there was also a Dovetail report on the archeology, as well as information from members of the cemetery committee. Mrs. Dodd stated that the information was too detailed to be put on a sign and that she would have to pick out the main points.

Ms. Baker stated that the detailed information could be put on a website, which could be found with the help of a QR-code on the signs, and that way all the information could be made available.

4. Falmouth Master Interpretive Plan Implementation

Ms. Baker presented what had come out of the full final plan which contained the sites that were the focus of potential interpretation. She reiterated that the discussion at the previous meeting was to have a little plaque in front of buildings, structures, or sites that had a number on it with a reference to a pamphlet or a virtual tour of Falmouth, rather than big signs at each location. She stated that the idea was to provide a self-guided tour. Ms. Baker added that the next step now was to do the write ups for the suggested sites for a pamphlet as well as something that could go on a mobile application. She added that the commission needed to figure

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out whether they wanted to do it themselves or whether they would prefer getting a consultant, in which case they would need a grant.

Mrs. Dodd stated that a lot of the resources listed had already had extensive studies done, like the Union Church for example, which had a national register nomination. She felt that the information had already been gathered for most of the places which is why she did not support hiring a consultant.

Ms. Baker added that it was not only about gathering information, but narrowing it down to be put in pamphlet form for handouts as well as on a website.

Dr. Rodriguez felt that pamphlets often ended up being thrown away, while QR-codes and phone applications were much more efficient.

Mr. Pitts suggested coming up with a form to fill out with the type of information required from each property for the pamphlets.

Dr. Rodriguez inquired if it would be one pamphlet for everything, or if each site would have their own.

Ms. Baker stated that that was the Commission's decision to make and that they had to figure out the best way to go about this.

Mrs. Dodd felt that there were a lot of buildings in Falmouth that should be mentioned and that some of them were not even on the list. She did not feel that putting individual signs in front of each of them was a good idea, since it would be too cluttered which is why she also liked the idea of having a mobile application to look up information. Mrs. Dodd felt that the first step now should be to make a decision on whether or not to hire a consultant to narrow down all the information and put it in a pamphlet and mobile application friendly format, which would require grant money.

Ms. Baker added that the Economic Development and Tourism Department may already have money available.

Mrs. Dodd asked if the county had a webmaster who would be able to take on the mobile application rather than hiring an outside person.

Ms. Baker stated that she would have to talk to the IT department to see if they had the capability. She also mentioned that they would still need somebody to input the information for IT to use. She added that a consultant would do both and explained that the \$12,000 package she provided included both.

Dr. Rodriguez suggested, since the National Park Service was using apps, to ask them who they were using. Ms. Baker agreed and added that the Commission did not have to make a decision at this meeting and that she simply wanted to start the conversation.

Ms. Baker referred to the matrix under implementation and pointed out that the three short term goals were a kiosk with brochure distribution, a website, and printing a self-guided leaflet for the kiosk. She added that the mobile app was a medium-term goal.

Ms. Baker suggested talking to Economic Development as well as IT and bringing the information back to the Commission at the next meeting.

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

ADDITIONAL PRESENTATIONS BY THE PUBLIC

None

CHAIRMAN’S REPORT

Mrs. Dodd stated that she happened to drive past Shelton Cottage earlier in the day a noticed a white van there with no identifying marks. She assumed they were looking at the foundation and was asking if Ms. Baker had any information.

Ms. Baker explained that the Architectural Review Board (ARB) approved an application for work to be done. She stated that the sill beam at the rear at the house would be replaced with existing material since it was rotted as well as the doors, and the structure would repainted.

Mrs. Dodd inquired what happened at the Planning Commission (PC) meeting regarding the Counting House.

Ms. Baker explained that the rezoning to allow for office use was moving forward. According to Ms. Baker the PC tabled the application as they felt they needed more information on how it would be ensured that the structure would stay and that it would be compatible with the district. She added that staff tried to assure the PC that there were mechanisms in place for that purpose. Ms. Baker explained that currently the County Attorney and the Economic Development Department were in the process of coming up with a memorandum of agreement which would eventually transfer the property to the person that wanted to come in with the office use. She further explained that the memorandum would reference and associate a deed of restrictive covenants which would get recorded and would run with the property. Ms. Baker stated that the deed would spell out that the ARB had the oversight over the structure, and that the Secretary of Interior Standards for rehabilitation would have to be followed even if the property sold. She added that the rezoning would go in front of the PC again the following week, although the memorandum has not been finalized. Ms. Baker felt that the PC might table the rezoning again.

Mrs. Dodd stated that she spoke with Irma Clifton who was concerned that once one parcel was rezoned, more would follow and how that would fit in with Falmouth.

Ms. Baker stated that Ms. Clifton brought that up at the PC meeting as well. Ms. Baker explained that the parcels on the side of the bridge where Amy’s Café was located along West Cambridge were mostly zoned B-2, Commercial and the ones along Washington were mostly R-1, residential, as well as the ones to the east of Gordon Street. She added that there were not a lot of parcel left to be zoned.

Mrs. Dodd inquired about the little white church that used to be by Berry Store and whether there was some sort of business going in.

Ms. Baker stated she believed that a Wine & Design studio would be opening up at that location and added that it used to be owned by Billy Howell and still might be. She stated that it was already zoned commercial. Ms. Baker added that Falmouth was currently a mix of residential and commercial and that the vision of the Falmouth plan was to keep the small scale, boutique type development. Ms. Baker informed the Commission that another piece of the puzzle was the Dunbar Kitchen owned by Lloyd Taylor. She explained that Mr. Taylor was looking at coming in with a plan for some redevelopment to include putting in

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a sidewalk along Gordon Street. She added that the plan was to keep Dunbar Kitchen and provide some parking area, as well as building an additional structure by the Dunbar Kitchen to allow for office/retail type use. At this point, she explained, nothing had been submitted but was introduced at the Board of Supervisor's (BOS) Community and Economic Development Committee a few months ago with the intent to come back to the BOS once they were ready to move forward. Ms. Baker further explained that Supervisor Thomas was looking to have a town hall meeting about Falmouth and she would let the Commission know when it was scheduled.

Mrs. Dodd inquired whether the stabilization work at Sanford Slave Quarters had already commenced as it appeared that way from looking at a photograph.

Ms. Baker stated that Parks and Recreation had in fact put up the bracing and all the logs and other lumber had been moved out and stored in a storage building at Duff Green Park. She further stated that the roof would be fixed next. Ms. Baker informed the Commission that Parks and Recreation had some concerns regarding nailing pieces onto the end gables since they were not sure about the sturdiness of the structure. She added that she would reach out to Dennis Pogue again and talk to him as well about it.

Mrs. Dodd didn't feel that it would be an issue.

Dr. Rodriguez believed that they would probably use staples.

Mrs. Dodd felt that either way, they would have to make sure that the wood wasn't too soft to hold it.

Ms. Baker added that weeds had also been removed and two small trees had to be removed, but the ground had been left intact. She further stated that Parks and Recreation was also considering taking off some the branches of the large tree to the left.

Mrs. Dodd felt it would be nice to get a bore sample of the tree to determine its age, which would be helpful when a decision would have to be made whether to save the tree or not.

Mrs. Dodd inquired about the preservation awards.

Ms. Baker stated that the letters would be sent out next month in order to have them turned in by mid-March. She suggested for the Commission to determine who would be working on the awards.

Mrs. Dodd stated that Ms. Best-Rolls already had experience with the awards and suggested she continue handling the awards.

Ms. Best-Rolls agreed.

Ms. Baker stated she would bring a draft letter to the next meeting for discussion.

REPORTS BY COMMISSION MEMBERS

Mr. Pitts inquired about Golgotha Church.

Ms. Baker stated that it was taken off the market because the owners were reconsidering the sale price. Ms. Baker explained that the preacher had passed away last May and that his wife and children were the Trustees and were putting it up for sale. Upon Mrs. Dodd's inquiry, Ms. Baker explained that church services were

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no longer held at the church. She further stated that the structure itself was sound, but there were flooding issues in the basement and some of the interior is falling apart. She further added there had already been interest parties.

Mr. Pitts inquired about the age of the church.

Ms. Baker stated that the date on the bell in the bell tower was 1891.

Mrs. Dodd explained that dates on bells did not necessarily show the date they were built but when they were cast.

Ms. Baker added that there was literature which talked about when some of the services were first held and that the owner was only estimating the church's age.

Ms. Baker asked the Commission to take a look at the meeting schedule.

Mrs. Dodd stated that she would not be available June 2nd.

Ms. Baker added that they were looking at having a joint meeting with the ARB around March/April.

Mrs. Dodd asked if she needed to contact Mr. Eakin again.

Ms. Baker replied that she would contact the County Attorney to see if there was any specific format that they needed to do to make it happen and would then talk with Mrs. Dodd and Mr. Eakin, Chairman of the ARB, to set up the meeting.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

November 5, 2015

Mrs. Dodd stated she did not review the minutes and asked the members if they had any corrections or comment. After a brief discussion it was decided to defer voting on the minutes until next month.

Ms. Best-Roll made to motion to defer.

Dr. Rodriguez seconded.

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

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 4:08 p.m.