

STAFFORD COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION MINUTES
March 3, 2016

The meeting of the Stafford County Historical Commission of Thursday, March 3, 2016, was called to order at 3:05 p.m. by Chairman Richard Chichester in the ABC Conference Room of the George L. Gordon, Jr., Government Center.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Anita Dodd, Richard Chichester, Barbara Kirby Ken Pitts and Ann Best-Rolls (3:21)

MEMBERS ABSENT: David Rodriguez and Jane Conner

STAFF PRESENT: Kathy Baker, Amber Forestier, Joseph Fiorello, Jacqueline Nova, and Denise Knighting

GUESTS PRESENT: Eric Mink

Mr. Chichester called the meeting to order.

Mr. Pitts called the roll, with four members present it was determined there was a quorum.

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS

None

NEW BUSINESS

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

Mr. Mink stated that he had provided a copy of the latest update which was about the Cavalry Corp camps. He added that tracking those was very difficult as the maps he had showing the camps were drawn before the cavalry was organized into one body. He further stated that the cavalry's responsibilities were to respond to alarms, as well as provide security for the army and were moving around a lot as a result. Mr. Mink stated that he only found a couple of references indicating that the cavalry built only winter huts rather than camps. He stated that he would do his best in finding the camps, but that there was only one location that was actually mapped. Mr. Mink stated he would be able to map some of the 2nd Division next month. He stated that he would at least record whatever he could find in the written records. Mr. Mink stated he attempted to communicate with Quantico Marine Base to try to retrieve some of their reports but has not received any response yet. He added that he would try to contact them again before going to VDHR to see if they were able to release any of Quantico's reports.

Mrs. Dodd suggested Mr. Mink contact Ms. Kate Roberts who was the archeologist on Quantico.

Ms. Baker stated she was contacted by Ms. Roberts who was trying to find out which reports the County already had. She added that she needed to get with Ms. Forestier to see which ones were already received.

Mrs. Kirby stated there was a big article recently because of the cannon ball that had been found at Shipping Point, as well as a ship.

Mr. Mink mentioned that he saw an advertising for Al Conner's book on the army of the Potomac in Stafford County during the winter of 1862/63 which was due to be out in June.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

2. Falmouth Master Interpretive Plan Implementation

Ms. Nova stated that since the last meeting a web application was created which could be used on tablets, phones, and computers. Ms. Nova proceeded to give a presentation showing how the application was set up. She stated that currently there was information (photos and text) available on 18 different locations.

Ms. Baker suggested the Commission read through the language and make their recommendations. She also stated that photos could be replaced if better ones became available, however the property owners would have to give permission for the photos to be published. Ms. Baker further added that a link to the County website would also be provided on the application.

Ms. Nova stated she would email the link for the application to the Commission so they could look through it.

There was a discussion about the amount of text shown when clicking on a location, and the consensus seemed to be that they preferred to only see 1-2 lines of text with the option to “read more”.

Ms. Baker stated that she and Ms. Nova would work together on accommodating the Commission’s suggestions.

3. Bloomington Signage/Flyers

Mrs. Dodd stated she looked over Jerrilynn’s report and felt that it should be added in its entirety, pending Jerrilynn’s permission. She further inquired whether they would be able to use the images from the Dovetail reports.

Ms. Baker stated that according to Ms. Barile (Dovetail) they were authorized to. Ms. Baker stated that she would be meeting with Cathy Vollbrecht, the new interim Parks and Rec Director, the following day to go over this as well.

Mrs. Dodd reiterated that she had also made a suggestion to put a site plan on the sign. She felt that the plan in the report was too confusing due to the topo lines and suggested adding the plan without the lines.

4. Discuss Joint Meeting with Architectural Review Board

Ms. Baker stated that she spoke to the Chairman of the Architectural Review Board (ARB) regarding the ARB attending the HC’s meeting in April. She added that she had not heard back from him. Ms. Baker was confident that she would hear back the following week. Ms. Baker stated that she needed a list of specific topics that would be discussed at the joint meeting from this Commission as well as the ARB.

Mr. Chichester inquired who would be running the meeting.

Ms. Baker stated since it was a joint meeting, the meeting would be opened by the HC then the ARB would open their meeting and the meeting would be declared a joint meeting at that point. Ms. Baker ensured that staff would help moderate and run the meeting since there were certain procedural steps.

Ms. Best-Rolls inquired whether the language for the awards in May would be discussed at next month’s meeting.

Ms. Baker stated that the nominations were due on the 25th of March and that it would be up to the HC to vote on those, and discuss at the May meeting.

Mr. Pitts stated that he was contacted by Mr. Trimmer and was wondering if it would be appropriate to invite him to the next meeting.

Ms. Baker stated that that was fine.

Mrs. Dodd suggested discussing the proposed Ordinance O06-47 at the joint meeting.

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

No discussion on this item.

ADDITIONAL PRESENTATIONS BY THE PUBLIC

None

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

None

REPORTS BY COMMISSION MEMBERS

Mrs. Dodd referred to the letter from Mr. Mink regarding Pratt Park. She reiterated that a report was reviewed by the HC regarding a waterline going through Pratt Park which could impact some of the historic resources in that area. Mrs. Dodd stated that a Phase I and Phase II were completed and that the HC made a recommendation that the work should be monitored. She further stated that she received a phone call from the Utilities Department asking her to do the monitoring. Mrs. Dodd felt she did not have the credentials to do such work since she had no master's degree which was a state requirement, and did not feel comfortable with it. She further stated that she received a call from the state archeologist who was asking for assistance from the HC, as she was asked by County Utilities to monitor the work when the trench is being put in. She explained that DHR recommended a specific method of monitoring which was scraping off a couple of inches to see if there were any resources. According to Mrs. Dodd they also were asking for a report once the work was completed. It was Mrs. Dodd's understanding that although the site was eligible for the National Register, there was some sort of language that allowed for the project to commence without further study. She added that the archeologist was asking the HC for a recommendation as well as Park Service, who already provided a letter to him. Mrs. Dodd stated that she was in possession of copies of the letter from Park Service, as well as a letter written by the state. Mrs. Dodd made a recommendation to write a letter to the County asking them to do the right thing, by following the recommendation of the state.

Ms. Baker informed the Commission that Dovetail was the on-call consultant for the County.

Mrs. Dodd felt it made sense for James River, who did the first two reports, to continue the study.

Ms. Baker was okay with that.

Mr. Pitts inquired whether the recommendation should be sent to the Board of Supervisors (BOS).

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Mrs. Dodd felt that the initial letter should be addressed to Utilities and copies should be provided to Planning Commission (PC), BOS, and Parks and Rec.

Ms. Best-Rolls asked Mrs. Dodd to provide the Commission with copies of the letters.

Mr. Pitts asked Mrs. Dodd to come up with a draft of the letter to be sent to Utilities.

Mrs. Dodd agreed. Mrs. Dodd stated that she had just received a Phase IA report for some work that was being done on Truslow Road for sewer, which would come close to the Civil War Trenches. Mrs. Dodd stated that it was her understanding, after a brief conversation with Ms. Forestier, that the lines had been moved, but she was still concerned that they were still too close as they were coming in with large machinery. Mrs. Dodd felt that some sort of cautionary language was in order.

Mr. Pitts asked Ms. Baker if the Commission could visit the site.

Ms. Baker stated she would check into that.

Mrs. Dodd inquired whether there was a time limit for the Commission to send a letter.

Ms. Baker stated that she did not know, as Ms. Forestier was the one who brought it to her attention.

Mr. Pitts added that the study was done last June.

Mrs. Dodd was concerned that it took so long for the Commission to receive a report and that she would like to mention that in the letter. Mrs. Dodd stated she would try to get in touch with Ms. Forestier the next day as she had to leave the meeting early, to see if there was a deadline for comments, which would determine if there was time for a site visit or if the letter had to be sent immediately. Mrs. Dodd made a motion to write the letter.

Mrs. Kirby seconded the motion.

The motion passed 5-0.

Mrs. Dodd reiterated that at the previous meeting there had been some discussion on visiting the 18th century building remains at Saddle Ridge. She stated that she had been trying to get in touch with the property owners to get permission but they were not returning her calls. Mrs. Dodd referred to her email regarding visiting Crow's Nest. She stated that the site visit with scheduled for March 23, 2016 at 10:00. Mrs. Dodd stated that she recently received some information from Irma Clifton about some legislation which had been approved at the state level, which gave counties the authority to create ordinances addressing the custody of cultural resources.

Ms. Baker stated that the program was called the Curator in Residence Program.

It was Mrs. Dodd's understanding that the County would be able to create their own ordinance which would allow an individual to live on a historic property and take care of it, but they would have to comply with Section 106 standards. She felt it was another way of keeping those properties up, such as the slave quarters house at Belmont, which was currently standing empty. Mrs. Dodd stated that she had been looking into this and that Fairfax County had already established the ordinance, which she would like to take a look at.

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Ms. Baker stated that she would send out the information to the Commission so they could determine whether it was worth looking into further.

Mrs. Dodd stated she was planning on attending the National Register workshop on March 28th in Loudoun County.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

January 7, 2016

Mrs. Dodd stated she had a correction on page 6, line 275, the word should be tree not street.

Mrs. Kirby made a motion to accept the minutes as corrected.

Mr. Pitts seconded.

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

February 4, 2016

Mrs. Dodd stated she had a correction on page 3, line 112, remove the “a” after “or” and also remove the “s” on Commissions. On page 5, line 229, there was a comment about the Moncure-Conway Foundation, but a comment was made that the Moncure-Conway Foundation no longer exists and she thought that should also reflect in the minutes.

Ms. Knighting stated she had a correction on page 1, the first line has “January” and she would correct it to “February” and Mr. Pitts brought to her attention there was a correction on page 2, line 94, remove “that he”.

Ms. Baker stated Mrs. Conner emailed in a correction and it had already been taken care of.

Mr. Pitts made a motion to accept the minutes as corrected.

Mrs. Dodd seconded.

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

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Chichester stated the meeting was adjourned.

With no further business to discuss the meeting was adjourned at 4:16 p.m.