

STAFFORD COUNTY
HISTORICAL COMMISSION
MINUTES

FEBRUARY 4, 2010

Call to Order. A regular meeting of the Stafford County Historical Commission was called to order by Cessie Howell, at 3:15 P.M., Thursday, February 4, 2010 in Conference Room ABC, Stafford County Administration Center.

Roll Call. The following members were present: Cessie Howell, Secretary; Ann Best-Rolls, Jane Conner, Tim Dwight and Frank White. Anita Dodd, Chairperson, was absent.

Also in attendance were: Mike Zuraf, Principal Planner; Mike Lott, Environmental Planner, both of Planning & Zoning and Terry Baxley Morton, Commission Clerk.

Ann Best-Rolls nominated Cessie Howell, Secretary; seconded by Jane Conner as temporary Chairperson of the Historical Commission for February 4, 2010 in the absence of Anita Dodd, Chairperson.

The Commission voting tally was:

Yea: (5) Best-Rolls, Conner, Dwight, Howell, White

Nay: (0)

Absent: (1) Dodd

Presentations by the Public. Glenn Trimmer, Friends of Stafford Civil War Sites and D.P. Newton, Local Historian were present.

- Glenn Trimmer handed out a sheet in reference to the Stafford County Civil War Park to open near the County landfill. He spoke to the Commission roughly a year ago in reference to the park. Friends of Stafford Civil War Sites is taking concrete action to move forward on the plan they submitted to the Board of Supervisors. The agreement was approved by the Board on March 15, 2009. They solicited bids from four organizations. Freeland Engineering was chosen to perform the engineering feasibility study. Glenn Trimmer presented maps from the study. The organization has completed all of the filing for 501 3C status. They are incorporated with the State now. They are ENI now. Everything is in with the federal government; however, they are not acting on the application. They can now act as a non-profit organization. They now need the County to look at the preliminary plan. It's a huge effort for them to raise \$880,000. They really want to get families into these sites to honor soldiers. They want to construct a road to make it easier for children and older people to have access, as some of the terrain is fairly zealous. Glenn Trimmer has been working with Sona Homes for over a year. The company would prefer constructing access from a subdivision bordering a historical nature park than through a landfill. Sona Homes is ready to sign the agreement with the County to grant an easement. The subdivision will be on Mt. Hope Road. Glenn Trimmer spoke with Tim Baroody regarding getting the easement signed. They cannot begin fund raising until they have County approval of the plan and the easement. They have had a cost estimate prepared by a professional engineering firm for everything required to put the park in place, including three

Civil War fortifications, multiple Civil War camps, a bridge site that is pre-Civil War but used in the Civil War, multiple corduroy roads, a few rifle pits, several hut sites and a stone quarry. They will try to raise money for six signs just for the Civil War sites and the entry way. General Howard commanded the 11th core there and went on to command the entire right wing of the army and he established Howard University. The Quarry is an interesting historic site in addition to a Civil War site.

Glenn Trimmer presented an estimated cost of \$880,000 as the high and the low is \$801,000. He said a couple of Supervisors asked if he could guarantee that he could do this. He answered no, he cannot guarantee anything.

Cessie Howell asked if there are other historic sites owned by a County and if people are able to raise money for County owned property instead of making the entire property a nonprofit entity. Glenn Trimmer said there is an example where it was a joint effort by the County and private citizens that was owned partly by Quarles Quarry. He said they are looking into various grants. He iterated the fact that he always requests to consult with the Historical Commission prior to moving on these transactions.

Cessie Howell said she would not want to contribute personal funds to something that belongs to the County. Glenn Trimmer said the County is not in "the raising money business" the group raising money would be Friends of Stafford Civil War Sites. If the park is not constructed the money will be returned to the donors. Cessie Howell said when it is completed it will be a self-guided tour. Glenn Trimmer offered to take the Commission on a tour in March. Cessie Howell asked him to contact the Commission regarding fund raising because groups such as the Boy Scouts, other Civil War volunteers, re-enactors and the NAACP would be interested in helping. Glenn Trimmer said there is a list.

Glenn Trimmer said once they get the Board's endorsement, and a signed easement agreement with Sona Homes they can begin fund raising efforts. He said landfill staff has offered to clear land for a road, that alone is a savings of around \$150,000. They plan on grounding up the trees and using the mulch for the trails.

Glenn Trimmer said his group needs a resolution recommending the plan to the Board of Supervisors. Cessie Howell inquired with staff about the possibility of a correspondence being crafted to convey this. Staff said it could provide the correspondence.

Frank White asked if there was an estimated time frame for the project to begin. Glenn Trimmer said he has a full project chart. Frank White asked about securities. Glenn Trimmer said the Steering Group is working on those types of issues. Ann Best-Rolls asked who the members of the Steering Group are. Glenn Trimmer said Al Conner, Tim Baroody, Bill Shelton is the liaison from Friends of Stafford Civil War Sites to name a couple. Ann Best-Rolls inquired about an archeology study. Glenn Trimmer said there have been four. Additional studies can be conducted between now and March 15, 2010 as long as they are funded. He and D.P, Newton are skeptical of archeology studies in the County because of their expense, results and availability to local people. He said, therefore, they will not fund any additional archeological studies. He said they will not allow any archeologist be present during construction. They will

not take on the liability or risks. Ann Best-Rolls asked how his organization can dictate to the County rules on archeological studies. He said the only time they are going to make any statement is under the terms of the agreement voted on by the Board. He said the agreement only forbids those studies under the contract at times you would not want the studies to be conducted. After the park is in place any studies can be conducted at any time. He said* he thinks it would be a tourist draw. He said they have not made any long standing judgments. They simply have made a contract with the County that states what can be done when. Ann Best-Rolls asked if during the studies conducted if there were any indications that there are pre-history or colonial sites that could be damaged in the construction of the roads and/or the signs. She said because this Commission is obligated to represent all eras and not just the Civil War.

Ann Best-Rolls motioned, seconded by Jane Conners to direct staff to craft a letter from the Historical Commission to the Board of Supervisors in support of the preliminary Stafford County Civil War Park plan prepared by Friends of Stafford Civil War Sites. The letter shall state the Commission recommends quick approval of the plan as presented by Friends of Stafford Civil War Sites so construction can begin immediately with a goal of completing the Stafford County Civil War Park during the Civil War Sesquicentennial.

The Commission voting tally was:

Yea: (5) Best-Rolls, Conner, Dwight, Howell, White
Nay: (0)
Absent: (1) Dodd

Approve Minutes of Commission Meeting. Ann Best-Rolls motioned, seconded by Jane Conner to approve the November 5, 2009 Commission meeting minutes with minor corrections.

The Commission voting tally was:

Yea: (4) Best-Rolls, Conner, Howell, White
Nay: (0)
Absent: (1) Dodd
Abstain: (1) Dwight

- Value of Billboards for Future Removal. - This item was deferred.

- Continue Revising The Historic Preservation Award Process. - A subcommittee consists of Cessie Howell and Jane Conner. They provided a hand-out. The sub-committee felt the award should be expanded upon.

Tim Dwight asked about the possibility of a landscape award being presented to people that completed landscaping that really looks historical. They discussed an example that used a view-shed and only split-rail fence. He gave an example of landscaping in Hartwood on US-17 North. He said it was authentic enough to bring in a film crew for a Civil War movie.

The sub-committee elaborated on a volunteer award. Jane Conner said previously, the award was to be given to someone that accomplished those goals in a one-year period. The sub-committee said some projects take a few years for volunteers to complete.

Cessie Howell asked if anyone wanted to add an award. She listed the categories, a developer, individual, a home or building, the outside-landscape and a volunteer. She asked if anyone wanted to add a category. Frank White mentioned students. Jane Conner said a school or students could be under the volunteer award.

Terry Baxley Morton pointed out the current Historic Preservation Awards package stated within the last three years. The Commission said it was an over-sight. They possessed the package that was obsolete.

After discussion, four categories for nominations were added.

Jane Conner motioned, seconded by Ann Best-Rolls to expand the Historical Preservation Award criteria to include four categories.

The Commission voting tally was:

Yea: (5) Best-Rolls, Conner, Dwight, Howell, White
Nay: (0)
Absent: (1) Dodd

- Discuss Phase I Portion of Proposed Ordinance O06-47 Dated July 18, 2006 Regarding Archaeological Surveys and Investigations. - Terry Baxley Morton gave a hand-out containing all changes and updates voted on and discussed, contained in approved meeting minutes since April, 2009. This enabled Commission members to have all information in one document. This document will need to be updated on a regular basis until its completion. - The subject was deferred.

Report by Commission Chairperson. - This item was deferred as the Chairperson was absent.

Reports by Commission Members. - Jane Conner welcomed Tim Dwight as a new member of the Commission. He thanked her and said he was glad to be a member.

- Frank White commented on an e-mail from Anita Dodd regarding a letter from the Commission supporting the Patowomeck Indians in their request to be recognized by the State. Anita Dodd crafted a letter that was endorsed by the Commission. Cessie Howell said the request passed the House of Representatives and it may have a difficult time in the Senate.

- Tim Dwight informed the Commission he is working on the Master's Mill project in the Aquia District. He said it is the last standing mill in the County. He said it is in danger of being lost. He said Supervisor Cord Sterling is working with BB&T Bank to deed the historic site to the County. He said in the mean time he has lined up University of Mary Washington students to use the mill as a project for their historical preservation class. Cessie Howell suggested Tim Dwight contact the milliner that restored the mill at Stratford Hall.

- Mike Zuraf returned to the Commission meeting with a draft letter to be submitted to the Board regarding the Stafford County Civil War Park. The Commission agreed on the content of the letter.

Adjournment. At 4:32 P.M., the temporary Chairperson declared the meeting adjourned.

Cessie Howell - Secretary - (Temporary Chairperson)