

HISTORICAL COMMISSION
COUNTY OF STAFFORD
STAFFORD, VIRGINIA

MINUTES
Regular Meeting
December 2, 2010

Call to Order. A regular meeting of the Stafford County Historical Commission was called to order by Anita Dodd, Chair, at 3:17 PM, Thursday, December 2, 2010, in the ABC Conference Room, Stafford County Administration Center.

Roll Call. The following members were present: Anita Dodd, Chair; Ann Best-Rolls, Vice Chair; Jane Conner; Barbara Kirby and Frank White. Cessie Howell, Secretary, was absent.

Also in attendance were: Kathy Baker; Assistant Director, Planning & Zoning; Terry Baxley Morton, Commission Clerk.

Presentations by the Public. No one from the public was present

Approval of Minutes. Approve Minutes of the September 2, 2010 Commission Meeting.

Ann Best-Rolls motioned, seconded by Frank White, to adopt the September 2, 2010 Commission meeting minutes as submitted.

The Voting Commission Tally was:

Yea: (5) Best-Rolls, Conner, Dodd, Kirby, White

Nay: (0)

Absent: (1) Howell

Reports by Commission Chair. Anita Dodd reported on the following:

Mountain View Road Project Report -

Anita Dodd crafted a correspondence to Rinker Design Associates (RDA). She said the report did not address one of the cultural resources that will be compromised by the widening of the road which is the Roseville Post Office. She said she spoke with the landowner and they would like to have the post office moved farther back on the property out of harm's way. She recommended the same in the correspondence. Kathy Baker suggested sending the correspondence to the County Administrator for him to disseminate accordingly and she would forward a copy to the Planning Commission Transportation Committee (PCTC).

The Falmouth Interchange - Effects on Cultural Resources in the Area From the Project -

Anita Dodd said the amount of cultural resources that are going to be affected is amazing. Jane Conner said the level of service will only go from an F to a D. Anita Dodd said she feels the improvements are not going to help anything. She said she previously crafted a correspondence to SHPO (State Historic Preservation Office). She feels strongly that SHPO may not intervene

with VDOT's (Virginia Department of Transportation) plans. She said there is a meeting on January 6, 2011, Thursday, 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM at the VDOT District Auditorium at 86 Deacon Road regarding the Falmouth Interchange. She asked everyone to attend. She feels the traffic should be redirected to the cloverleaf by Stafford High School. She said traffic needs to be removed from the intersection. She encouraged everyone to support preserving cultural resources in that area. Kathy Baker said Helen Ross with VDOT sent her an e-mail stating the draft environmental assessment will be ready later this month and will be available at the public meeting. Anita Dodd reiterated that not all reports are complete.

Historical Commission Serving as a Consulting Party for Quantico Marine Corps Base Regarding Projects and Cultural Resources -

Anita Dodd said she received information from the office of the Commander of Quantico Marine Corps Base, regarding a programmatic agreement with SHPO having to do with cultural resources located on the base. The office inquired about the Historical Commission serving as a consulting party for this subject. The document describes how Quantico staff will handle cultural resources that may be compromised by further construction etc. Parties involved in projects will contact the Commission for feedback on each project. She requested that copies of any archeological, architectural or historical reports generated from any projects be sent to the Commission. She said she will respond to the request with a phone call and a correspondence.

VRE (Virginia Railway Express) - Cherry Hill Third Track Project (new bridge) -

It was established that the original bridge will not be destroyed. The Commission was given permission to record the old bridge. The new bridge will be built next to the old bridge. She said she will record the old bridge and perhaps Barbara Kirby can assist.

Fairfaxing Mine Road - A letter to the editor in the Free Lance-Star Newspaper -

The author was concerned about cultural resources in the County. He referred specifically to the Embrey Mill project. He made the statement that the house was going to be destroyed and other resources were heading the same way. Anita Dodd said she wrote a response to his letter stating the house is not being destroyed, in fact, it is currently stabilized.

Barbara Kirby motioned, seconded by Ann Best-Rolls, to agree and support the response written by Anita Dodd for the Free Lance-Star stating the Embrey Mill house will not be destroyed.

The Voting Commission Tally was:

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

Five Small Bungalows Located on Warrenton Road are to be Demolished as a Result of the

Widening of the Road -

A couple of the structures are brick and the rest are stone. Anita Dodd said they were probably built in the 1920s or 30s to compensate individuals coming to work at the Sylvania Factory. There was an influx of building when the factory was built. She said they have been vacant for years. She wanted the Commission to be aware of the future demolition. She said VDOT staff should provide a report.

The Scheel Map Revenue and Display -

The Account balance for the Historical Commission is \$7,900 as a result of sales from the Scheel Map. Ann Best-Rolls brought the web-page to the Clerk's attention stating the Scheel Map is not the map displayed. The Clerk said she would change the web-page the following day to include the correct map.

The Comprehensive Plan -

Anita Dodd said she and Barbara Kirby received copies of the cultural resources management section of the proposed comp plan. She said she is pleased with the contents. She said it has the elements in it to allow for a resource management plan, the phase one ordinance, updating the cemetery ordinance and other crucial items. She said it gives the Commission a document to refer to when making requests. The proposed comp plan is available on the County's web-site.

Various Reports and Information -

Anita Dodd said much of the time there is a "disconnect" between departments and the Commission involving cultural resources. A couple of examples are transportation information and demolition permits. She is not sure some staff members know the Commission exists. She suggested having department heads or representatives come to a Commission meeting to familiarize themselves with the Commission and what its duties and better open the lines of communication. The Commission thought it better to follow through with this in February.

- The County Comprehensive Plan.

Kathy Baker said the comp plan is to go before the Board December 14th. Discussion ensued regarding comp plan public hearing protocol. Kathy Baker said once the comp plan is adopted the Planning Commission is required within 90 days to set up an implementation plan. Over the next five years there will be short-term, mid-term and long-term plans on how to implement each section of the ordinance such as cultural resources. The Planning Commission's next few meetings will be setting up a timeline and establishing committees. Most likely the committees will be set up within the Planning Commission to work with staff and whomever to show how the implementation will take place. Anita Dodd asked if the Historical Commission would be involved in discussions for the implementation of the cultural resources section of the comp plan. Kathy Baker said once the timeline is set up they will decide how they will actually perform the implementations. She said, again they would set up their own subcommittees and then engage staff. Staff, if they need to, will involve different groups for different sections of that plan then that would occur through the process. She said she will notify the Historical Commission when the plan is on the Planning Commission's agenda for discussion after it is approved by the Board. She said then the Historical Commission can express its desire to be involved. Kathy Baker said the intent is to work with the various commissions that work under the various departments that work with the different elements of the comp plan.

Barbara Kirby asked if the County is hiring any new employees. Kathy Baker said the County is not hiring any new people; the two that were authorized at Tuesday's meeting were vacant positions from people that left. The County would be refilling positions. Anita Dodd said she asked Kathy Baker, if the position was approved by the Board, to check into the possibility of hiring a planner with some preservation background. Kathy Baker said the Board will be discussing various positions in the context of the budget in the next few months.

- Jane Conner said she asked Supervisor Gary Snellings about filling an opening on the Commission. He told her he will appoint a member the first of the year.

- Master's Mill and the Steven's House.

- Jane Conner said she spoke with Kathleen Dwight and she informed her that she will get information regarding Master's Mill and the Steven's House to Jane Conner for the Commission soon.

- Kathy Baker said Cessie Howell informed her there have been discussions to have meetings with a bank and Supervisor Cord Sterling regarding the two structures.

- Anita Dodd said part of the issue with the two structures is that Master's Mill basically belongs to a bank and the Steven's House belongs to a private property owner. Anita Dodd said someone is restoring the inside of the Steven's House and it is in good shape.

- Agricultural/Purchase of Development Rights (PDR) Committee.

- Kathy Baker said currently in the ranking criteria points are given for how many cultural resources are on the property or adjacent to the features. There is now a list of properties containing or contiguous to important historical structures of national, state or local significance or archeological sites, which get higher points, next, properties associated with an important historic place, event, person or activity and then properties in an established or familiar visual feature as part of a historic landscape. The PDR discussed it to make it a more simple process. How property gets points assigned if a resource has national, state or local significance. The PDR thought the easiest way to assign points is if it is listed on the national register or eligible for the register or the state, or in the local county district because those have been documented, they would rate the highest points. The next category is associated with a historically important place that is documented or in the Virginia Department of Historical Resources (VHR) database. There has to be a tangible way of assigning points. If it is not on the list, but information is provided, the PDR may bring it forward to the Commission. Ann Best-Rolls said Kathy Baker sent information on Albemarle, Clark and Shenandoah Counties' criteria to the Commission. A separate category is century farms, placed under cultural resources because it is tied into the cultural activity of farming. Kathy Baker said the points have not been determined yet. Barbara Kirby said the criteria mentions property in an established or familiar visual feature that is part of a historic landscape. Kathy Baker said that is criteria the PDR would get concurrence from the Commission on. She said other localities that have that category have either a scenic byway like Monticello that is its scenic view-shed. Kathy Baker said since that is not really specified that is a category the PDR can leave open ended, for example, if it is located next to Chatham. She said there is no clear cut way to determine what is in your view-shed. Anita Dodd asked if it is not clear cut would the PDR consult the Commission. Kathy Baker said yes and if something is not documented. Ann Best-Rolls read Clark County's criteria aloud. Kathy Baker said the County's point system will probably not change very much. Ann Best-Rolls iterated some different jurisdiction's point systems. She said they are using weighted criteria whereas the County is using a straight point system. Kathy Baker said with the County, not having a historic planner, may not want to break it down to that detailed extent because it would make it more difficult for staff to have to go through the research. She said the one thing the County has to keep in mind is it has to really be weighted toward agriculture because the County's matching funds are coming from the State Department of Agriculture. Their criteria is

that it basically has to be farm or forest land to get matching funds so it is weighted towards that. Things like environmental and cultural resources are basically added value to the easement.

- Proposed Ordinance Regarding Archeological Surveys and Investigations.

- Barbara Kirby said if Widewater becomes an Urban Density Area (UDA) it will wipe out all cultural resources in that area. She said there is no signage in the County indicating there was courthouse previously. Ann Best-Rolls said she will re-contact Supervisor Harry Crisp regarding the subject.

- Historic Preservation Award Process.

- Anita Dodd said she understood the Commission decided to put together a committee of individuals that would have input regarding people that completed projects or may be worthy of an award and have a meeting of those individuals to state their cases and awards would be given out at one of the May Board meetings during Historical Preservation Month. The award would consist of a certificate. She understood the Commission left off with who might attend the meeting. The Commission clerk presented the documents and meeting minutes containing the Commission's suggested revisions. In addition to the groups previously suggested to choose candidates it was suggested to possibly add developers and cultural resource management firms as well. Previously it was mentioned to include individuals in the decision process, however, it was established those individuals would already belong to one of the groups included. Jane Conner said the committee should send a cover letter illustrating the four different awards, a preservation award, a homeowner award, a landscape award and a volunteer award and the criteria for each.

Reports by Commission Members.

- Ann Best-Rolls said she stopped by the new 7-11 at Warrenton Road and Melchers. A representative was there from Mid-Atlantic Builders and a superintendent. The open space on the property where the Falmouth sign was is going to be landscaped; it will be a nice open space that would be great for wayside signage. She spoke with Al Conner regarding a potential sign and he was supportive of the idea and has a sign in mind. She said there are others that could be installed as well. She requested a copy of the plan to illustrate the area. She said the sign currently installed does not include a handicap accessible portion. Kathy Baker said one of the criteria from the conditional use permit was to install a historical marker. Ann Best-Rolls said it is a large open space that could tell a lot about the community and it would make a great gateway. She said it is in a great location and will be beautifully landscaped. Anita Dodd said the Commission can approach the property owner and the County's Economic Development and Tourism. Discussion ensued. Ann Best-Rolls said she would pursue the subject.

- Ann Best-Rolls said the corridor from the Chatham Bridge to the Blue Gray Parkway has been extremely neglected and in need of much improvement. She spoke with VDOT and agreed to volunteer her help.

- Frank White said road work and widening of Mingles Hill is progressing nicely. He said people are renovating the old Fannie Roots house including siding and painting. He said Sherwood Forest and Springfield Farm recently sold and will probably be developed. Kathy

Baker will check if the house sold with the property. Frank White said his father had spoken with people who owned the Renaissance property and told them his grandmother (Frank White's great grandmother) was a slave on the property. The owners of the property built a small bridge over the creek on the property and placed her name on the bridge. He said at the time the bridge was built there was a ceremony honoring her. He does not know what happened to the bridge. The Commission wants to look into it. He said a newspaper reporter wrote an article about it approximately ten years ago. He said if he can locate the article he will share it with the Commission.

Adjournment. At 4:45 PM the Chair declared the meeting adjourned.

Anita Dodd - Commission Chair