

**STAFFORD COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION MINUTES**  
**January 3, 2019**

The meeting of the Stafford County Historical Commission of Thursday, January 3, 2019, was called to order at 3:05 p.m. by Kathy Baker in the ABC Conference Room of the George L. Gordon, Jr., Government Center.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Jane Conner, James Tully, Sue Henderson, Ryan Lovell

MEMBERS ABSENT: Anita Dodd, Richard Chichester, David Rodriguez

STAFF PRESENT: Lindsey Marr, Eva Campbell, and Kathy Baker

GUESTS PRESENT: Chandler Rook

CALL TO ORDER

Ms. Baker called the meeting to order at 3:05 p.m. and asked Ms. Conner to call roll.

ROLL CALL OF MEMBERS

Ms. Conner called roll and Ms. Baker stated there was a quorum present.

ORGANIZE COMMISSION

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

Ms. Henderson made a motion to nominate Ms. Dodd as Chairman.

Mr. Lovell seconded the motion.

With no other nominations, the nominations were closed. The motion for Ms. Dodd passed 4-0 (Ms. Dodd, Mr. Chichester, and Mr. Rodriguez were absent).

Ms. Henderson made a motion to nominate Mr. Lovell as Vice Chairman.

Ms. Conner seconded the motion.

With no other nominations, the nominations were closed. The motion for Mr. Lovell passed 4-0 (Ms. Dodd, Mr. Chichester, and Mr. Rodriguez were absent).

Ms. Henderson made a motion to nominate Ms. Conner as Secretary.

Mr. Lovell seconded the motion.

With no other nominations, the nominations were closed. The motion for Ms. Conner passed 4-0 (Ms. Dodd, Mr. Chichester, and Mr. Rodriguez were absent).

- Review of by-laws.

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Ms. Baker passed out the by-laws and stated the Commission was not required to make any changes to them. She stated they can review them, and if they found any item they wanted to change they could discuss that at the next meeting. She stated the only change made to the by-laws in the recent years was that the Chairman could only serve a maximum term of two continuous years.

Ms. Henderson asked if anything needed to be done to Section 5A, because this was their first meeting of 2019.

Ms. Baker replied they did not need to do anything.

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS

NEW BUSINESS

1. Falmouth Master Interpretive Plan App

Ms. Baker explained the Falmouth Master Interpretive Plan App to the Commission. She stated the Master Interpretive Plan was adopted three years ago and includes recommendations for tourism related activities in the Falmouth district. She stated the recommendations included the creation of a web-based app that gave visitors a virtual tour of the historical sites and cultural resources in the Falmouth area. She stated the app production was stagnant for a while but has since been picked back up. She gave the Commission a tutorial of the app. She stated they want to provide a link on the app that provides the user with even more information on Falmouth. She stated they were looking for feedback from the Commission on whether they think there's anything else that needs to be added.

Ms. Conner stated she recalled there was supposed to be some kind of interactive location at the end of West Cambridge Street, and this location would be where you were supposed to begin the virtual tour.

Ms. Baker stated that aspect was a more long-term part of the Interpretive Plan. She stated some other more long-term aspects were: building an overlook with interpretive signage by Amy's Café that would give you a view of the river and a monument depicting the slave crossing at the Falmouth Beach Park (some push back due to the flooding issues in Falmouth). She stated this all ties back into the Board of Supervisors Strategic Plan of using Stafford's cultural resources as a tourism attraction.

Ms. Conner asked how tourists would know that the app was available.

Ms. Baker replied it would be advertised on the Stafford County website. She stated the maintenance and marketing of this app would be something that the cultural specialist position could take over.

Ms. Conner asked is Ms. Baker had heard any information about the dark green building that used to be a brothel for sale in that area.

Ms. Baker replied she did not.

Ms. Henderson asked if there was a link on the County website to the non-profit renovating the Union Church.

Ms. Baker replied the contact information on the website regarding the Trustees of the Union Church was outdated.

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Ms. Henderson stated they should make sure there was easily accessible and accurate information for any of the historic buildings with a public presence.

Ms. Baker stated Stafford has a Public Information office that gets a lot of information out on social media.

Ms. Henderson referenced the 9/11 Memorial in Washington D.C. as a really good example of a walking tour that Stafford could maybe draw inspiration from.

Ms. Baker stated there are many different ways this app could evolve.

2. Courthouse Area Resources; Road Intersection Improvements

Ms. Baker stated she wanted to give the Commission a heads up on some upgrades that will be done to the intersection of Courthouse Road and Jefferson Davis Highway. She stated the goal of the upgrades would be to facilitate movement on Route 1. She stated with these upgrades and the new I-95 interchange, the Courthouse corridor will be slightly changed. She stated there were a few buildings that would need to be demolished: the medical center, old bank building on the corner, and the little white cinderblock buildings. She stated the plans for the intersection upgrades will be drawn up in the next year so she wanted the Commission to have ample time to document these properties.

Ms. Henderson asked if any of the buildings were pre-20<sup>th</sup> Century.

Ms. Baker replied she wasn't sure and would need to look at the date. She stated there was a manhole covering the original cornerstone of one of the buildings and that would definitely need to be documented. She stated construction won't begin until 2020 at the earliest.

Ms. Conner suggested when they take the photos of the buildings they should make sure to include the surroundings to give the buildings context.

Ms. Baker stated Ms. Dodd usually takes the photographs and does the measured drawings in comparison to the lot itself. She asked if anyone was interested in helping Ms. Dodd to let her know.

3. Accokeek Furnace Rezoning, Phase II Report Confirmation

Ms. Baker stated the report came back saying there was nothing found to show that the site is eligible for the National Register so there were no recommendations. She stated typically the Commission would send a letter to the applicant that states no further work is necessary and that you're concurring with the report. She stated they did note there was some old Aquia sandstone out there, and they asked the owner if they would be willing to donate that to the Trustees of the Union Church or the Historical Society and the owner had agreed to.

Ms. Conner made a motion to send a letter to the developer/applicant stating they've received the report and concur with it.

Ms. Conner made a motion to send the letter.

Ms. Henderson stated she didn't know enough about it to second it.

Mr. Lovell seconded the motion.

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The motion passed 4-0 (Ms. Dodd, Mr. Chichester, and Mr. Rodriguez were absent).

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

4. Board of Supervisors' 2040 Strategic Plan

Mr. Tully summarized what the Commission discussed in regards to the Board of Supervisors' Strategic Plan at the last meeting. He stated the main focus was to convey to the Board the importance of the cultural resource specialist position.

Ms. Baker stated the question arose as to whether the Commission simply wanted to state their support or send a letter to the Board.

Ms. Conner stated she felt a letter from Anita representing the Commission would be the best show of support.

Mr. Lovell asked for more specifics on the cultural resource specialist position.

Ms. Baker replied it was intended to be similar to the historic preservation planner position in the past but with some added responsibilities.

Ms. Henderson asked if there was enough work to justify that position.

Ms. Baker replied that if you look at the BOS Strategic Plan and the new goals, there definitely is.

The Commission agreed they would like to review a draft of a letter to the BOS before they decided on anything.

Ms. Baker stated she would get a calendar to see when the FY2020 budget would be presented to the BOS, so that they could get the letter written before then.

5. County-owned Cultural Resource Properties

Ms. Baker stated this was the list of cultural resources that had been created previously by the Commission. She stated it was on the agenda for them to come up with some short-term and long-term goals and also to figure out how to phase some of the bigger projects. She stated Parks and Recreation was currently working on bid documents for the Lake Mooney Slave Quarters and that project has been identified and approved by the BOS for them to proceed with.

Ms. Conner suggested it would be a good idea to start a "Friends Of" group in Celebrate Virginia for the Lake Mooney Slave Quarters.

Ms. Henderson asked if the cultural resource list was available on the website for the public.

Ms. Baker stated there was not a public list on the website. She stated the Economic Development & Tourism Department has some of the resources listed. She stated the Planning & Zoning Department has links to different lists, but not necessarily all the county-owned resources.

Ms. Henderson stated there were a lot of new residents who probably don't know the sites they pass everyday are cultural resources.

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Mr. Tully and Ms. Baker discussed the Falmouth Elementary School building.

Ms. Baker discussed the building on the Duff Green Park property.

Mr. Tully stated the resident curatorship program might work for that property.

Ms. Baker stated there were some more short term goals, such as the signage on Government Island, that could be achievable in a more timely sense. She discussed the importance of the Capital Improvements Plan. She stated Lake Mooney Slave Quarters was the only cultural resource in the CIP.

Ms. Henderson requested that county staff make recommendations to the Historical Commission on which cultural resources take priority for renovation.

Ms. Baker stated they might need to hire someone that could direct them as to how to write a management plan and ask the Parks and Recreation Department to hire a consultant.

Ms. Henderson stated they should request in the next month that someone from Parks & Recreation do the research on what it takes to get someone to implement these management plans.

Ms. Henderson made a motion to request from Parks and Recreation to do the research on a contractor.

Mr. Tully seconded the motion.

The motion passed 3-0 (Ms. Conner was out of the room).

ADDITIONAL PRESENTATIONS BY THE PUBLIC.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

REPORTS BY COMMISSION MEMBERS

Ms. Henderson stated there would be a roundtable meeting in the near future held by Supervisor Coen regarding the flood plain management in Falmouth.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

November 1, 2018

December 6, 2018

Ms. Henderson made a motion to approve both sets of minutes.

Mr. Lovell seconded the motion.

The motion passed 4-0.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to discuss, Mr. Lovell made motion to adjourn the meeting at 4:14pm.