

STAFFORD COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION MINUTES
January 5, 2017

The meeting of the Stafford County Historical Commission of Thursday, January 5, 2017, was called to order at 3:11 p.m. by Kathy Baker, Assistant Director of the Department of Planning and Zoning, in the ABC Conference Room of the George L. Gordon, Jr., Government Center.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Richard Chichester, Anita Dodd, Ken Pitts, and David Rodriguez

MEMBERS ABSENT: Jane Conner, Barbara Kirby, and Ann Best-Rolls

STAFF PRESENT: Kathy Baker and Denise Knighting

GUESTS PRESENT: Glenn Trimmer and Irma Clifton

CALL TO ORDER

Ms. Baker called the meeting to order and asked for the roll to be called.

ROLL CALL OF MEMBERS

Mr. Pitts called the roll and stated there was a quorum with four members present.

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS

Mr. Trimmer stated he would like to inform the Commission that he had been asking, since the Civil War Park opened, to get a count of the vehicles entering. He stated a counter was finally set up the first week of November and by the end of November the count showed 609 vehicles entering the park. He stated last week when it was overcast he had a tour of 10 people.

Mrs. Clifton stated the brush behind Shelton's Cottage had been cleaned up by Parks and Recreation, and it looked great. She stated her next project was to get it open for garden week and get the local garden club to put some decorations around. She stated a Christmas wreath was placed on the door as well as the Hobby School and the Union Church. She stated there was an interest in the historic structures in Falmouth.

ORGANIZE COMMISSION.

-Election of Chairperson.

Ms. Baker opened the floor for nominations for Chairman.

Mr. Chichester nominated Anita Dodd.

Dr. Rodriguez seconded.

With no other nominations, Ms. Baker closed the nominations and called for the vote. The motion passed 4-0 (Mrs. Conner, Ms. Kirby, and Ms. Best-Rolls were absent).

-Election of Vice Chairperson.

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

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Dr. Rodriguez nominated Mr. Chichester.

Mr. Pitts seconded.

With no other nominations, Ms. Dodd closed the nominations and called for the vote. The motion passed 4-0 (Mrs. Conner, Ms. Kirby, and Ms. Best-Rolls were absent).

-Election of Secretary.

Mrs. Dodd opened the floor for nominations for Secretary.

Mr. Chichester nominated Mr. Pitts.

Mrs. Dodd seconded.

With no other nominations, Ms. Dodd closed the nominations and called for the vote. The motion passed 4-0 (Mrs. Conner, Ms. Kirby, and Ms. Best-Rolls were absent).

NEW BUSINESS

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

Mrs. Dodd stated Mr. Mink was out of the office and they would move on to item 2.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

2. Falmouth Master Interpretive Plan Implementation

Ms. Baker stated Ms. Davis, from the GIS Department, had made all the revisions that Mrs. Dodd submitted. She asked Mrs. Dodd if she was going to write additional information for Belmont.

After a brief discussion, Ms. Baker stated she would pull up the language from the Belmont website and send it to the members. She stated Ms. Davis still needed a few pictures but with the Belmont information and the pictures it should be ready and the next item would be reaching out to property owners. She stated Ms. Davis would have all the screen shots printed out for the members to review the final version at the next meeting.

Dr. Rodriguez asked if there were any future plans concerning the Falmouth Bridge.

Ms. Baker stated nothing anytime soon. She stated the improvements they were doing to Chatham would be within the existing structure, not replacing the bridge.

Mrs. Dodd stated some maintenance was done on the Falmouth Bridge a few years ago, which was repairing the railings on top.

Ms. Baker stated to date it had only been safety improvements. There were discussions when the Falmouth intersection was done but they could not accommodate widening of the lanes. There was no indication of any work to be done anytime soon.

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Dr. Rodriguez stated he was concerned about the movement while sitting in traffic on the bridge.

Ms. Baker stated movement was actually good, as it allowed the concrete sections to expand and contract during weather fluctuations.

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

Mrs. Dodd stated she had been asked to serve on a Committee in Fredericksburg that would address a lot of the issues that the Commission addressed in the proposed Ordinance. She hoped it would encourage Stafford to move forward.

ADDITIONAL PRESENTATIONS BY THE PUBLIC

None

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Mrs. Dodd asked if there was any additional information concerning the boundary markers.

Ms. Baker stated Helen Ross with VDOT was working on the project and at this time the County was waiting for information from her concerning how it would proceed.

Ms. Dodd asked if the County was open to the suggestion.

Ms. Baker stated yes, the Public Works staff and County Administration had been communicating with VDOT.

Mrs. Dodd asked if there was an update on the Falmouth Ordinance.

Ms. Baker stated currently staff was putting together the application that was authorized by the Board of Supervisors. Staff was also working on a letter that would go out to property owners explaining the process. No date had been set for public hearing at this time, but most likely February or March. She stated she would keep the members informed as it progressed.

Mrs. Dodd asked about the information Ms. Baker handed out.

Ms. Baker stated she received the information from VDOT today, and they were looking to see if there were any bridges throughout the State that were eligible for the National Register. She stated the letter indicated there were no structures in Stafford County currently considered eligible for listing and was asking for concurrence or if they had missed something they feel strongly about. She asked the members to review the letter and let her know; the letter was asking for a response within 60 days.

Mrs. Dodd asked if the Falmouth Bridge was in Stafford.

Ms. Baker stated the river was in Stafford but she was not sure about the bridge; she stated she would check.

Mr. Chichester stated he just attended a Historical Committee meeting, and they received the same letter. He stated no one in that group thought there were any historical bridges in the county. He stated if he remembered correctly the Falmouth Bridge was built in 1943.

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Mrs. Dodd stated it only had to be 50 years old. She suggested the Commission review the letter.

Dr. Rodriguez asked if VDOT would provide a list of bridges they had looked at.

Ms. Baker stated yes, the letter referenced that the website has all that information. She stated she would add it to next month's agenda.

REPORTS BY COMMISSION MEMBERS

Mr. Chichester asked about Falmouth Elementary School.

Ms. Baker confirmed Mr. Chichester was referring to the Ray Grizzle Center on Butler Road.

Mr. Chichester stated yes, and he stated if anything was going to be done with the building they would have to find out who owned it.

Ms. Baker stated Stafford County owned the property.

Mr. Chichester stated according to the deed, if the property was not used for the original purpose, the property had to revert back to the heirs of the seller in 1924. He stated according to the County Attorney, the request for a title search had to come from the Historical Commission, but first this Commission would have to hold a meeting with the County Attorney to explain. He stated he would like to invite the County Attorney to the March meeting.

Mrs. Dodd asked for copies of the deed.

Mrs. Clifton stated she had already started the process of having Shelton's Cottage listed on the State and National Register. She asked if the information Mr. Chichester just gave would have any effect on that process.

Mrs. Dodd stated it should not affect Shelton's Cottage; it was just the Ray Grizzle Building.

Mr. Chichester stated the only reason it was given to him was because his brother was a lawyer. His brother told him a title search would need to be done. He stated he then took it to Eric Olsen, who also said a title search was needed, and that was when it went to the County Attorney. He stated the County Attorney said the request had to come through this Commission.

Ms. Baker stated she would ask the County Attorney to attend the March meeting.

Mr. Pitts stated he contacted the engineer for Granville Estates, and had not heard anything as of yet.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

November 3, 2016

Mrs. Dodd stated she had so many corrections for the November 3rd minutes she emailed the list to Ms. Knighting.

Mr. Pitts stated he had some also.

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Mrs. Dodd stated if nobody had any objections to those corrections, she would ask for a motion to approve the November minutes.

Mr. Chichester made a motion to approve.

Dr. Rodriguez seconded.

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

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Ms. Knighting stated the December minutes were not sent out, but she would send them now so the Commission would have time to review them.

Mrs. Dodd suggested emailing the minutes to the Commission members earlier, which would give them time to review and email their corrections and/or additions prior to the next meeting, thus saving time.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Pitts made a motion to adjourn.

Mr. Chichester seconded.

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

With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 3:37 p.m.