

STAFFORD COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION MINUTES
February 7, 2019

The meeting of the Stafford County Historical Commission of Thursday, February 7, 2019, was called to order at 3:00 p.m. by Anita Dodd in the ABC Conference Room of the George L. Gordon, Jr., Government Center.

MEMBERS PRESENT: James Tully, Sue Henderson, Ryan Lovell, Anita Dodd, Richard Chichester, and David Rodriguez

MEMBERS ABSENT: Jane Conner

STAFF PRESENT: Lindsey Marr and Eva Campbell

GUESTS PRESENT: Chandler Rook

CALL TO ORDER

Ms. Dodd called the meeting to order and asked Ms. Marr to call roll.

ROLL CALL OF MEMBERS

Ms. Dodd stated there was a quorum present.

ORGANIZE COMMISSION

➤ Re-Election of Chairperson.

Ms. Dodd stated she could not be re-elected Chairperson, because she had already served in that position for two years.

Mr. Chichester made a motion to nominate Ms. Conner as Chairperson.

Ms. Henderson seconded the motion.

The motion passed 6-0.

➤ Re-Election of Vice-Chairperson.

The Commission decided they didn't need to re-elect the Vice Chairperson.

➤ Re-Election of Secretary.

The Commission decided to wait until Ms. Conner was present to re-elect a Secretary.

➤ Review of by-laws.

Mr. Lovell, as Vice-Chairperson, assumed responsibilities of the chairperson in the absence of Ms. Conner.

Ms. Henderson made a motion to approve the current by-laws.

Mr. Chichester seconded the motion.

The motion passed 6-0.

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS

NEW BUSINESS

1. Section 106 Review – Reinstall Diana Statue at Chatham

Ms. Henderson stated she could give a brief summary on this topic. She stated the Friends of Chatham group had determined the Diana Statue was in need of a significant amount of repair. They put on a fairly successful fundraiser and acquired the necessary funds to hire an expert in this type of repair from Ashland, Virginia. She stated they're expecting to have the repair done in time for Garden Week, which is mid to late April. She stated the Friends of Chatham group has been responsible for many of the repairs completed at Chatham.

Ms. Dodd stated that was a great example of how helpful a "friends of" group can be to the historical preservation of an area. She stated they needed to respond to this topic as a consulting party.

Ms. Henderson stated it seemed a little late to be a consulting party, because the project was about 90% finished.

Ms. Campbell stated a Section 106 Review did not need a response from the Historical Commission, it was just to make them aware.

2. Annual Historic Preservation Awards

The Commission discussed the Annual Historic Preservation Awards and which organizations they wanted to send nomination letters to this year.

Ms. Dodd stated they usually present the awards in the middle of May, so they would need to make the decisions in April.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

3. Board of Supervisors' 2040 Strategic Plan

Ms. Campbell gave Ms. Baker's update on the BOS 2040 Strategic Plan. She stated at the March 5, 2019 Board meeting, staff would be presenting the budget, and the Board would plan to authorize a public hearing which would be taking place at the April 2, 2019 meeting. She stated if any Commission members wanted to attend a Board meeting to state their support for creating the position of a Cultural Resource Specialist, these meetings would be the ones to do that. She stated the Commission could also write a letter to the Board if they preferred. She stated the Board had recently just gone on a retreat and they would release any new information from that soon.

Ms. Dodd stated there was already a letter that had been written years ago addressing this position and why the Historical Commission felt it was needed. She stated they should try to find that letter and see if it's still relevant. She stated they could send that letter to the March 5, 2019 meeting and then have someone speak at the April 2, 2019 meeting. She stated a letter was a good idea because it would be on the record, but someone should also speak because that would make more of an impact.

Mr. Rodriguez asked if there had been a response to the letter.

Ms. Dodd replied there had not been a response. She stated she felt there was no response due to the lack of funding and a lack of understanding of the importance of such a position.

Ms. Campbell suggested whoever speaks for the Commission emphasizes the amount of projects and repair left undone without someone in the Cultural Resource Specialist position.

4. County-owned Cultural Resource Properties

The Commission members continued to discuss the importance of the Cultural Resource Specialist, especially with the task of organizing this list. They discussed that most surrounding counties have someone in this position.

Mr. Tully stated he visited all the County-owned cultural resource properties and he felt that without the position of a Cultural Resource Specialist the Historical Commission itself was powerless.

Ms. Dodd disagreed with Mr. Tully's statement. She stated the Historical Commission was still able to make recommendations and that it is needed with or without the position.

Mr. Tully asked if there had ever been a historical marker program.

Ms. Dodd stated there had been such a plan considered several times, but every time it has fallen away.

Ms. Henderson stated there were some places with markers that were not on the list of County-owned cultural resources and vice versa, there were some places on that list that did not have markers.

The Commission continued to discuss historical marker programs in Stafford County and the lack of funds to maintain the cultural resources on this list. They discussed getting public interest and support in preserving and repairing these resources before they disappear due to neglect.

Ms. Henderson suggested creating an "endangered" cultural resources list to spark some public interest in preservation. She stated she would bring the issue up at the Rappahannock Round Table meeting in Falmouth. She asked if it was in the Historical Commission's purview to write a press release and publish it when they give out the preservation awards in May.

The Commission discussed the best way to release this "endangered" list. They agreed it would be a good idea to find a way to properly showcase the County's resources that need the most help.

Ms. Henderson suggested the Commission ask Staff to coordinate with the Communications Department on releasing the endangered list in May because that is Preservation Month.

Ms. Campbell stated she would talk to Ms. Baker and find out what they needed to do to make that happen. She suggested using the Historical Society's display cases to bring attention to different cultural resources.

5. Falmouth Master Interpretive Plan App

The Commission discussed having the app displayed on the television screen in the lobby of the government building.

ADDITIONAL PRESENTATIONS BY THE PUBLIC

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

REPORTS BY COMMISSION MEMBERS

Ms. Henderson discussed the Rappahannock Roundtable meeting to discuss Falmouth's flooding on February 27, 2019.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

January 3, 2019

Ms. Henderson made a motion to approve the minutes.

Mr. Chichester seconded the motion.

The motion passed 6-0.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to discuss, Mr. Lovell declared the meeting adjourned at 3:50 p.m.