

STAFFORD COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION MINUTES

March 7, 2019

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

MEMBERS PRESENT: James Tully, Sue Henderson, Anita Dodd, Jane Conner, and David Rodriguez

MEMBERS ABSENT: Ryan Lovell, Richard Chichester

STAFF PRESENT: Lindsey Marr, Eva Campbell, Kathy Baker

GUESTS PRESENT: Mike Unruh

CALL TO ORDER

Ms. Conner called the meeting to order and stated because there was no Secretary she would call roll.

ROLL CALL OF MEMBERS

Ms. Conner stated there was a quorum present.

ORGANIZE COMMISSION

- Re-Election of Secretary.

Ms. Henderson nominated Mr. Rodriguez as Secretary.

Ms. Dodd seconded the nomination.

The nomination passed 5-0.

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS

NEW BUSINESS

1. Smith-Forbes House/Westebbe Properties

Mr. Unruh stated that he was present as a representative of the Westebbe family. He stated one parcel of the property has the historic Smith-Forbes house on it. He stated the Westebbe's also owned an additional 34 acres of land adjacent to the lot the Smith-Forbes house was located on. He stated the family was looking to see if they could sell off the extra acreage to a developer. He stated he had come before the Historical Commission because there was a historical overlay on the entire property, including the extra acreage and the family wanted to know what their options were. He stated there were some secondary structures on the extra acreage, but none of them were actually from Stafford County. He asked if it was possible to remove the overlay from the larger 34 acre parcel and if that was not possible he asked what restrictions there were regarding potential development in the future.

Ms. Dodd asked Mr. Unruh how they would be addressing the cemetery on the property.

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Mr. Unruh replied that he was here to find out from them what he would need to do. He stated the cemetery was not owned by the Westebbe's and there would continue to be access to it as directed by law.

Ms. Dodd stated if in the future the land were to be bought by a developer they would have to abide by Stafford County's Cemetery Ordinance when dealing with it. She stated even if the cemetery was owned by someone else, it was not on its own parcel, so if the large parcel was sold it would be part of that lot. She stated he would have to go through the Planning Commission and Board of Supervisors to discuss getting the historical designation removed from that lot, it's not something the Historical Commission could do for them. She asked if the secondary buildings were included in the historic overlay.

Ms. Baker replied they were.

Ms. Dodd stated the secondary buildings weren't related to the Smith-Forbes house and therefore technically, in her opinion, had no significance to the Stafford County overlay district. She stated she felt the best thing for him to do was talk to the Architectural Review Board.

Ms. Baker stated that was the ultimate plan, but she had suggested Mr. Unruh come to the Historical Commission first to see if they had any recommendations for him to then take with him to the ARB.

Ms. Henderson stated she would like to be on the record stating that she was bothered by the idea that a 19th century building was not considered valuable enough to save. She stated she had trouble understanding how they could treat one building that had been moved from its original location as integral, but treat another building that had been moved from its original location as if it had no historical value.

Ms. Henderson and Ms. Dodd discussed whether a historic structure that was not originally from Stafford County could truly be considered historic to the area.

Ms. Dodd suggested the secondary buildings be recorded with a historic structures report.

Ms. Henderson agreed and stated she felt all the buildings should be documented whether they eventually removed them from the property or not.

Mr. Unruh asked if there was a formal procedure for the recording/documentation of historic buildings.

Ms. Dodd replied he would need to hire someone to do it.

Mr. Unruh asked if his next step would be to present his case to the Architectural Review Board and if documenting the buildings on the property would satisfy the Historical Commissions recommendation.

Ms. Baker replied that was a good, logical next step. She stated he did not need a formal application yet he could just go before the ARB and present the information.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

2. County-owned Cultural Resource Properties

No discussion occurred on this item.

3. Annual Historic Preservation Awards

Ms. Conner asked if to be nominated for this award, the project had to have taken place in the past year.

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Ms. Baker stated yes, and that information should have been in the letter that was sent out asking for nominations. She asked if the Historical Commission had considered who they wanted to nominate for the Annual Historic Preservation Awards. She stated they would need to vote on any nominations they receive at the next meeting.

The Commission members stated they did not have anyone in mind.

Ms. Dodd stated the Cemetery Committee was most likely going to nominate Billy Shelton Jr.

Ms. Baker stated the ARB has decided they were going to nominate the Barnes house.

Ms. Henderson asked if the garden restorations at Belmont had ever been recognized.

Ms. Dodd replied no they had not.

ADDITIONAL PRESENTATIONS BY THE PUBLIC

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

REPORTS BY COMMISSION MEMBERS

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

February 7, 2019

The Commission deferred the approval of the February minutes to the April meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to discuss, Ms. Conner adjourned the meeting at 3:35pm.