

STAFFORD COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION MINUTES
February 2, 2023

The meeting of the Stafford County Historical Commission of Thursday, February 2, 2023, was called to order at 3:02 PM by James Tully in the ABC Room of the George L. Gordon, Jr., Government Center.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Jane Conner, James Tully, Martha Newton, and Anita Dodd

MEMBERS ABSENT: Richard Chichester, James Powell

STAFF PRESENT: Crissy Kendall, Kathy Baker

GUESTS PRESENT: Kerri Barile (Dovetail), Jason Towery (SCPS)

CALL TO ORDER:

James Tully called the meeting to order at 3:02.

ROLL CALL OF MEMBERS

Ms. Newton called roll and there was a quorum.

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS

None

NEW BUSINESS

1. High School #6, Truslow Road – Cultural Resources

Kerry Barile gave an update on the findings on the High School #6 site. Two phases of archaeology have been done. They found that a small portion of the access road leading off of 17 is located within a battlefield site. They also found three pre-contact archeological sites. They wrote a report and submitted it the Army Corp of Engineers who sent the report to the Department of Historic Resources in November. They concurred that two of the three sites were potentially eligible for the National Register. The next step is to do the Phase 2 Archaeological testing to determine if these sites are indeed eligible. Testing will start February 20, 2023 on the Western site and will last for three weeks. The focus will be mainly on the southern portion of the 30-acre Western site due to the vast majority of artifacts were found in the southern quarter. If they go out into the 12-acre Eastern side it will require an additional three weeks to complete. The Pamunkey and Rappahannock Tribes will be consulting parties on this project. A report will be submitted to the Corps of Engineers Department and the Commission will be updated with the results. The current logging on the site is outside of the area to ensure that the site remains intact.

Mr. Towery stated that an elementary and a high school is planned for this site. The high school is slated to open August, 2026 and they will need to break ground this fall. The Elementary School is also slated to open August, 2026 and groundbreaking is planned for the summer of 2024. Timbering was done on the middle portion of the site in order to gain a time advantage. The Federal Government/Department of Wildlife have restricted clearing operations from April 1 through November 14 due to the threat to the endangered northern long-eared bat. Mr. Towery is working closely with Ms. Barile to be respectful of the process while trying to stay on schedule.

2. Annual Historic Preservation Awards

Ms. Baker provided copies of the previous letter and nomination forms and requested feedback for updates/corrections. Ms. Newton requested that the Patawomeck Indian Tribe of Virginia name be corrected on the list of organizations. Ms. Baker will update the letters and send them out next week. We should have all nominations back in time to discuss at the April meeting and the awards will be presented at the May 16 BOS. Ms. Dodd asked if the previous recipients ever picked up their awards. Ms. Baker doesn't think they were ever picked up.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

3. Austin Ridge Logistics – Cultural Resources Reports

This item was left on the agenda while we wait for permission to visit the site. The site visit is to determine the possibility of signage or a display to tell the history of the property.

4. Secondary Structure 50 Years or Older

Ms. Dodd provided a draft of the criteria for a "50 year or older" designation for discussion. Ms. Baker suggested she state where these attributes came from, for instance, National Park Service, Virginia Department of Historic Resources, etc. in case the property owner would like to do a little more research. She also suggested reordering of the attributes. Ms. Dodd will revamp the guidelines for the next meeting and the commission will revisit at the next meeting.

5. Civil War Report

The Commission requested a timeline of events such as when the monies were paid to the National Park Service, how much was paid and what the expected completion date would be. Ms. Kendall will gather the information and email the commission. Mr. Tully will contact Mr. Mink and his supervisor once he has the information.

ADDITIONAL PRESENTATIONS BY THE PUBLIC

None

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

None

REPORTS BY COMMISSION MEMBERS

Jane Conner found paperwork from her late husband that identified six of the markings at Buzzards Roost. The pieces are crated up and in the pavilion at the Civil War Park. Ms. Dodd stated the placement of the pieces has been decided and they were just waiting on signage to place the pieces. Ms. Conner will reach out to Mr. Brion Southall with Parks and Recs for a timeline.

Ms. Dodd would like an update on the hiring of the historic planner. Ms. Baker indicated that interviews have been done and an offer has been made.

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APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Anita Dodd made a motion to approve the amended minutes from January 5, 2023.

Jane Connor seconded the motion.

The motion passed 4-0.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to discuss, Mr. Tully adjourned the meeting at 3:57.