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2 **STAFFORD COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION MINUTES**

3 **August 3, 2023**
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5 The meeting of the Stafford County Historical Commission of Thursday, August 3, 2023, was called to order
6 at 3:08 PM by James Tully in the ABC Room of the George L. Gordon, Jr., Government Center.
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8 MEMBERS PRESENT: Jane Conner, James Tully, Martha Newton and Anita Dodd
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10 MEMBERS ABSENT: Richard Chichester, James Powell
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12 STAFF PRESENT: Nancy Kotting, Crissy Kendall
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14 GUESTS PRESENT:
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16 CALL TO ORDER:
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18 Mr. Tully called the meeting to order at 3:08.
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20 ROLL CALL OF MEMBERS
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22 Ms. Newton called roll and stated there was a quorum.
23

24 PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS
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26 Penny Parrish of the Falmouth District was in the building today on business and decided to attend the
27 meeting to meet the Commission members and find out what the Historic Commission does.
28

29 NEW BUSINESS
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31 1. Little Falls/Duff Green House – National Register of Historic Places Eligibility
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33 The County acquired the McDuff property in 2009. A significant part of it is now Duff Green
34 Park. The house and smaller portion of the grounds are being leased by the Patawomeck Tribe. It
35 is noted as a resource site on the Virginia Department of Historic Resources Inventory Database
36 but the eligibility of the property for listing on the National Register has never been determined.
37 Ms. Kotting has started the process to get a determination on the property to see if its eligible.
38 The tribe has been notified. The house has some indications of a construction date of 1915 and
39 other indications that the construction date was 1950. The house shows some interesting
40 architectural elements that don't make sense which make it an anomaly in Stafford County. For
41 this reason, Anita feels it would be eligible for the National Register.
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43 2. Forest Ridge/Stone House – Undocumented Historic Ruins
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45 A development plan for a residential development called Forest Ridge has been submitted for
46 review. Ms. Kotting reviewed the property for historic resources and found none in the state
47 system and County records. Since the review a citizen who is familiar with the property has
48 informed us of ruins of a stone house at the rear of the property. It is absolutely undocumented.
49 Ms. Kotting is going to reach out to the developer for permission to survey. Ms. Dodd mentioned
50 Quakers lived in that part of the county and built several stone houses.
51
52

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. Annual Historic Preservation Awards Refresh Ideas/Final

Anita Dodd motioned to accept the revised Historical Preservation Awards. Martha Newton seconded. Motion passed (4-0). The new awards guidelines will be included in the New Commission Members Handbook and Ms. Kotting will forward to Community Engagement staff as we get closer to awards time.

2. Proffers / Ivy Project at Oakenwold / Update

The mitigation plan for Oakenwold is open for comment. Ms. Kotting has two comments. The proffers that are in place state that Stafford County will have the first right to salvage materials. We are going to change that to “Stafford County or its designee”. Ms. Kotting also put in a call to the Army Corps of Engineers to find out what language they suggest adding. There is an interest in salvaging the kitchen and slave quarters in its entirety for storage and then possible reconstruction elsewhere. Nancy wants to make sure the language is clear that the salvage applies to the entire structure. The second comment will say something along the lines of the permittee shall create a deconstruction plan. Once the County or their designee have removed the items they wish to salvage the remaining materials should be removed and recycled by a reputable architectural salvage company. This gives the County an opportunity to lead through action. We should consider deconstruction versus demolition. Ms. Dodd will reach out to the Historical Society to discuss salvaging the Aquia Sandstone, the kitchen and slave quarters on the property.

3. Sherwood Forest Overlay District Proposal Update

The owners of the property responded to the letter we sent and just wanted to know what the schedule was. Ms. Kotting let him know it will go to the Economic Development Committee for referral to the Board of Supervisors. The item is currently working its way through the system.

4. Counting House Update

Key requests for proposals are currently being pulled together. The request for proposal is very similar to what was published the last time. The draft has gone through the Planning Department and has now been turned over to Construction Services and Economic Development. Ms. Dodd is concerned with a time limit since the last time nothing was done and the building sat deteriorating. Ms. Kotting said the time period will be shorter. She did a baseline conditions assessment of the property. At the start of the project she plans to do an onsite assessment where everyone is in agreement that this is the current condition of the house and then certain performance benchmarks will need to be met in order to ensure that the building doesn’t deteriorate any further.

5. Cemetery Data Base Update

Anita and Nancy are 99% done with the cemetery database. There is a dozen or so sites whose parcel numbers have changed due to development. GIS will investigate and provide the current parcel numbers. Once those last few have been updated we will upload to OnBase for use by the planners.

ADDITIONAL PRESENTATIONS BY THE PUBLIC

None

Historical Commission Minutes
August 3, 2023

CHAIRMAN’S REPORT

We have an Eagle Scout who is interested in building the fence at the Civil War Park. Ms. Kotting met him onsite and planned out the placement of the fence. She also met with Parks and Rec and Dominion and it looks like the project will be complete by Fall. Nancy is currently working on the signage.

REPORTS BY COMMISSION MEMBERS

Anita Dodd met with Mr. Roberts at NSHS to discuss the fence around the cemetery on the school property. They set a date to meet in October with the surveyors to officially determine the size and placement of the fence. Mr. Roberts suggested a split rail fence but Ms. Dodd felt it should be the powered coated fencing that looks like wrought iron to match the other fence on the property.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Ms. Dodd made a motion to approve the amended minutes from July 6, 2023.

Ms. Newton seconded the motion.

The motion passed 4-0.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to discuss, Mr. Tully adjourned the meeting at 3:45