

STAFFORD COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION MINUTES
October 5, 2023

The meeting of the Stafford County Historical Commission of Thursday, October 5, 2023, was called to order at 3:10 PM by James Tully in the Activities Room of the George L. Gordon, Jr., Government Center.

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: Richard Chichester

STAFF PRESENT: Nancy Kotting, Stacie Stinnette

GUESTS PRESENT:

CALL TO ORDER:

Mr. Tully called the meeting to order at 3:10.

ROLL CALL OF MEMBERS

Ms. Newton called roll and stated there was a quorum.

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS

None

NEW BUSINESS

1. Welcome New Commission Member Mr. Gordon Silver
2. Review of By-Laws Attendance Clause

Mr. Tully updated the attendance clause in the bylaws using the Commonwealth of Virginia's recent ruling on electronic attendance at board meetings. The updated bylaws have been sent to legal for review.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. Proffers / Ivy Project at Oakenwold / Update on Memorandum of Agreement

Ms. Kotting presented the opportunity to the Historical Society to act as the designee for the County giving them the option of removing and salvaging materials. The Society decided they are not going to move forward as there is nothing left to salvage. Ms. Kotting, Ms. Dodd and Mr. Hallowell made a site visit and agreed that there is nothing of significance for the County to salvage. The 106-review process was long and convoluted. Hopefully the process will move more efficiently on future projects now that Ms. Kotting is onboard. Ms. Kotting asked if the members had suggestions for an alternate designee to come in and take the building known as the kitchen/slave dwelling. There were no suggestions so Ms. Kotting will let the developer know that there will not be a salvage. Both buildings have been extensively documented. Part of the memorandum of agreement is that the

developer has to produce materials and write a full description. Ms. Kotting will monitor their fulfillment of these requirements. This item will stay on the agenda for updates

2. Austin Ridge Logistics Center Update: Section 106 Review Complete

Ms. Dodd composed a letter to the developer asking permission for the Commission to visit the property. She needs permission from the Commission members to send the letter. James Tully made a motion to send the letter requesting permission to visit the Austin Ridge Logistics site. Ms. Newton seconded. Motion carried, 6-0. Nancy provided copies of the determination letter from the Department of Historic Resources for the property.

3. Counting House Update: Request for Proposals Status

The request for proposals is being put together now and then will be forwarded to Legal and Procurement for review. There are currently two potential applicants that are interested.

4. Little Falls NRHP Eligibility Determination Update: Photo Session Complete

Little Falls is the farm that is part of the Duff Green park system which is now leased to the Patowomeck Tribe. Nancy has been working with Brad Hatch, their cultural resource person. She has completed the photo session required to submit the application for an eligibility determination. Nancy has found critical information that identifies the architect and the construction period date of the building. The determination of eligibility would give protection against any federally funded projects that might cause an impact to the property. It may also allow the County to possibly put a cultural resource overlay district on it. Nancy provided a newspaper clipping from the time period that announced that the owner of the property, EC Nathan, was contracting with an architect by the name of Philip Nathaniel Stern out of Fredericksburg, to build the building. The Rappahannock Cultural Heritage Archives is sending scans of the architect's drawings of the home.

5. Buzzards Roost Final Installation Update: On schedule for early October

Ms. Knotting has reached out to the contractor who will be moving the rocks to schedule a move date. She is waiting on a call back at this time. Funding is in place and the Graphics Department is working on the interpretive sign. The Boy Scout that is going to install the fence is waiting to get approval for the project. Mr. Tully requested notification with the dates the scouts will be working so he can volunteer. Nancy will also inform the Commission members when the date is set for moving day.

6. Buzzards Roost Interpretive Signage Content Final Review

Ms. Connor made one grammatical edit to the signage content (Change "this" to "the").

7. Aquia Communications Tower

Ms. Kotting had a last minute add to the agenda. There is a project coming through that the Commission has been asked to be a consulting party on. It's a 106-Review on a communication tower. The 500-foot tower will be going up within a half mile radius of Aquia Church.

ADDITIONAL PRESENTATIONS BY THE PUBLIC

None

CHAIRMAN’S REPORT

Mr. Tully reminded members not to “respond all” to emails. Responding all in emails constitutes a meeting. He requested members just respond individually to Nancy. She will gather the information and send out a response to all in order to not violate any FOIA rules.

REPORTS BY COMMISSION MEMBERS

Ms. Dodd was contacted by an individual who just purchased a property on Chatham Heights Road. He was told there was a Civil War era shoe shop on the backside of the existing garage. The shop was actually dated closer to 1920-1930. The scavenged wood, covered in siding was put together with wire nails. The windows, dating from the 20’s, were the most interesting part. Ms. Dodd took measurements and pictures of the building.

Ms. Dodd met with the School Board representative for North Stafford High School. They are going to put a fence around the second cemetery with a 35’ buffer. Technically they are not obligated by the cemetery ordinance because the ordinance came into effect after the school was built. However, they are willing to comply with it as much as possible. The 35’ buffer is compromised by the parking lot on one side and a hill on another side so some concessions were made in the placement of the fence. The History Department / History Club will clean up and maintain the property. They are not going to pay for the repair of the damaged marker. Anita is working on finding funding for the repair.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Ms. Dodd made a motion to approve the amended minutes from September 7, 2023.

Ms. Newton seconded the motion.

The motion passed 6-0.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to discuss, Mr. Tully adjourned the meeting at 3:46