

STAFFORD COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION MINUTES
December 7, 2023

The meeting of the Stafford County Historical Commission of Thursday, December 7, 2023, was called to order at 3:09 PM by James Tully in the ABC Conference Room of the George L. Gordon, Jr., Government Center.

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: Richard Chichester, James Powell, Gordon Silver

STAFF PRESENT: Nancy Kotting, Crissy Kendall

GUESTS PRESENT: Jeff Harvey and Mark Bowman

CALL TO ORDER:

Mr. Tully called the meeting to order at 3:09.

ROLL CALL OF MEMBERS

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

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS

Jeff Harvey and Mark Bowman wanted to make the Commission aware of a project they are working on at the intersection of Courthouse Road and Austin Ridge Drive. The project would involve rezoning of the property. Quest, LLC took possession in November. A Phase 1A Historic Resource Survey has been completed and a Phase 1B is in the process of being finalized. There are a number of existing residences on the property. A number of the dwellings are in fairly poor condition and will be demolished. Some of them are fairly recent, one from the 1970s, one from 1936 and one from 1900. They would like to know if the Commission would be interested in conducting an architectural survey of the some of the structures before demolition. Ms. Kotting provided drawings and renderings of the site and the summary and recommendations of the Archaeological Survey. Ms. Dodd would be interested in recording at least two of the dwellings photographically and do a first-floor plan. Each property will take a full day. She will contact Mr. Bowman to schedule. There is one cemetery located on the property with at least 6, possibly 10, graves in the cemetery. The headstones have fallen over and crumbled. The cemetery is the Gallahan-Lunsford cemetery. The plan is to reinter. Anita would like to take a look at the cemetery too. Ms. Kotting asked if there was any attempt to relocate the houses and there was not. She also asked if there is any interest in deconstructing and recycling the materials as opposed to demolition and filling the landfill. Mr. Bowman said they would be willing to consider it.

NEW BUSINESS

1. 930, 936, 952, 962 Courthouse Road Project/Phase 1B Survey Report

Covered in the public presentation. This will move to Unfinished Business on the next agenda.

2. Crow's Nest Outdoor Adventure / Archeological Resources Present

An application has been received to create a recreational vehicle campground near Crow's Nest. Ms. Kotting failed the application on her historical review because the applicant indicated there were no historical resources or cemeteries on that parcel. There is an archaeological site recorded on the site. The Phase 2 will require federal wetlands permits which may trigger a Section 106 review to determine impacts on any historical resources on the site. Ms. Kotting will continue to update the Commission.

3. 2024 Meeting Calendar Approval

The Commission reviewed the dates on the proposed 2024 meeting calendar. The July 4 meeting will be moved to July 11 due to the holiday. Ms. Dodd made a motion to approve the 2024 meeting dates. Jane Conner seconded. Motion carried, 4-0.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. Clift Farm Project Review: Requests made by Historical Commission Response

This report came back and no further study was needed. Item can be removed from the agenda.

2. Renaming of Walker Creek Status Update

Ms. Kotting doesn't have an update and is unable to find any information on this. Mr. Tully will forward the email from the Virginia Board of Geographic Names dated October 13 to Ms. Kotting and she will look into it.

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

The Stafford County Historical Society will start the salvage tomorrow (Friday). They will be documenting and storing the items and Ms. Kotting will provide the Department of Historic Resources with the required report. The archaeologists are finished with the physical work in the area and we are waiting for them to submit their report before Dominion Traditional Builders can begin the retrieval of the Aquia Stone. That will also be documented and submitted to the Department of Historic Resources.

4. Austin Ridge Logistics Center Update: Anita Dodd site visit report

Ms. Dodd has not received a response. She will update if anything changes. Remove item from the agenda.

5. Counting House Update: Request for Proposals Status: In final review

Still under review. Once the review is complete it will then go to legal.

6. Little Falls NRHP Eligibility Determination Update

No update at this time.

7. Buzzards Roost Final Installation Update: Signage, Fencing

The signs went into production on Thursday and should be installed in January. The fence will be installed by the Boy Scouts, led by Tyler Knutson, Saturday, December 16. Ms. Kotting will forward the time to the members in case they would like to stop by to support.

8. Review of By-Laws – Under Review Assistant County Attorney

By-laws are still under review. The County Attorney has two questions.

1. Is there a need for a clause for subcommittees? No, please remove.

2. Is there a procedure in place to elect an officer if one is removed? No. Please add the same procedure as used at the beginning of the year.

9. Elementary School Archeological Obligation Acknowledgement completed

The document that acknowledges the work has been signed. Remove item from agenda.

10. 106 Review for Communications Tower/Aquia Church- No Update

This project is in comprehensive plan review in long range planning. It has not been submitted as a formal plan for approval. An application for Archaeological Investigations on State Lands has been submitted. Ms. Kotting will keep the Commission updated when the project comes through for review. Ms. Dodd questioned if there is any plan in place for these towers when they become obsolete. Ms. Kotting will look into that.

11. Sponsored Interpretive Sign Request commemorating 22nd Regiment of NJ in Civil War Park

The letter was sent requesting more information on November 3, 2023. Ms. Kotting has not received any response to the letter.

ADDITIONAL PRESENTATIONS BY THE PUBLIC

None

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

None

REPORTS BY COMMISSION MEMBERS

None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Anita Dodd made a motion to approve the minutes from November 2, 2023.

Martha Newton seconded the motion.

The motion passed 3-0.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to discuss, Mr. Tully adjourned the meeting at 3:43