

STAFFORD COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION MINUTES
January 4, 2024

The meeting of the Stafford County Historical Commission of Thursday, January 4, 2024, was called to order at 3:04 PM by James Tully in the Activities Room of the George L. Gordon, Jr., Government Center.

MEMBERS PRESENT: James Tully, Martha Newton, Frank White and Anita Dodd

MEMBERS ABSENT: Richard Chichester, James Powell, Jane Conner

STAFF PRESENT: Nancy Kotting, Crissy Kendall

GUESTS PRESENT:

CALL TO ORDER:

Mr. Tully called the meeting to order at 3:04.

ROLL CALL OF MEMBERS

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

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS

Kristen Maxon, 1816 Richmond Highway, spoke on several issues. The first concern was when looking at the 2020 census, the area around zip codes 22554 and 22556 is listed as what looks like a subset called Stafford Courthouse. Her question is how does this affect historical records. She wants to be sure the historical information we have now is going to be transferred correctly. Her second concern was an application from the previous meeting that did not have a reference tax map number or address. The property was referred to by a title. She did not want to expand on which property out of respect for the property owner's privacy. She also felt USA should not be used as an abbreviation for Urban Service Area out of respect for the United States of America. She suggested Urban Area Service or something similar be used instead. Another concern was with industrial parks taking on a historical name, specifically Belmont Park. This could be confusing to the public. Her last concern is that our civil rights are now being undermined by special interest groups, sometimes in the name of civil rights. Ms. Dodd explained that most of her concerns were out of the Historic Commission's purview. She suggested Ms. Maxon should voice her concerns with the Planning Commission. She assured Ms. Maxon the Commission reviews the plans for any historical or cultural resources when a new development is proposed. Ms. Maxon reminded the Commission of the need for addresses and tax map numbers on the applications for safety.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Welcome New Member Frank White

The Commission welcomed Mr. Frank White back to the Historic Commission.

2. Election of Chairperson

James Tully was nominated by Anita Dodd to return as Chairperson for 2024. Martha Newton seconded. Motion carried.

3. Election of Vice Chairperson

Anita Dodd was nominated by Martha Newton to return as Vice Chair. James Tully seconded. Motion carried.

4. Election of Secretary

Martha Newton was nominated by Anita Dodd to return as Secretary. James Tully seconded. Motion carried.

5. Review Staff Liaison Guidelines and Basic Legal Information for BACC

Staff was given a copy of the staff liaison guidelines and legal info. No action required.

6. Baron Infrastructure Plan: Phase 1 Archeological Survey Recommendation

An application has been submitted for TM 54-49L and K at the corner of Baron Park Road and White Oak Road. The project is an infrastructure plan for the construction of a storage yard, water sewer connection and a supportive water treatment plant. It totals 3.38 acres. It is within the Fredericksburg Battlefield. There are no archaeological or architectural historic resources and no cemeteries. Anita Dodd made a motion for the Commission to recommend a Phase 1 since the property falls within the battlefield area and it appears to have not been disturbed as everything else around it has been. The survey could possibly offer information about historic activities in the area. Martha Newton seconded. Motion carries, 4-0. Mr. Tully will write a letter recommending the developer do a Phase 1 survey. Ms. Kotting will provide the contact information.

7. Valley View Cemetery/Big Spring Manor Development- Cemetery Delineation Report

This is informational only. While reviewing plans for a subdivision, Ms. Kotting found a cemetery survey had been done on the parcel being reviewed. The subdivision plat did not show the cemetery but the construction plans had a notation for a pet cemetery. Signatures for the final plan were stopped until it was shown the developer had Dovetail Cultural Resources do a scraping and proved it was a pet cemetery. One of the previous owners was a founding member of the Fredericksburg Kennel Club. Ms. Kotting reached out to engineer to see if the markers could be salvaged in case someone from the kennel club wants them. She has not heard back.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. Review of By-Laws – Final edits from Assistant County Attorney

There was some interest in finding out if the Commission could do remote meetings. This would require having a policy written, accepted and put into the bylaws. The state code the policy is based on is strict. There has to be a medical reason or some other significant reason to attend remotely. The County Attorney can draft a policy if the Commission is interested. The Commission felt this would be helpful and asked the electronic meeting policy be added to the bylaws.

2. Renaming of Walker Branch Status Update

Ms. Kotting informed the USGS naming department that Walker Branch has a historic name. She has pulled the forms to make a request for formal naming recognition by the USGS. The name Walker Branch is on the Shield's Map and other sources. It just never made it formally to the USGS official name database. Ms. Kotting felt this is a really good precedent to set given the amount of development that's coming through.

3. 930, 936, 952, 962 Courthouse Road Project/Phase 1B Survey Report

Ms. Dodd has talked with the developer and will be onsite on Monday to do an architectural survey. She may need a second day to complete the work on the three houses and the cemetery. She will keep the Commission updated.

- 103
104 4. Crow's Nest Outdoor Adventure / Application Update / Phase 1 Archeological Survey
105 Recommendation
106 A development review meeting is scheduled with the applicant on Friday. Ms. Kotting failed the
107 historic review because in the general notes it says there are no historic resources onsite. There is
108 an archaeological site on the parcel. The Native American archaeological site is listed with the
109 DHR but has not been evaluated. The applicant will eventually need to get federal permits
110 because there are wetlands. There is no action on behalf the Commission yet.
111
112 5. Proffers / Ivy Project at Oakenwold / Update on Memorandum of Agreement
113 The architectural salvage has been done. The stone salvage is on hold until the archaeological
114 report has been filed and reviewed.
115
116 6. Counting House Update: Request for Proposals Status: In final review
117 Still waiting for the RFP to work its way through the County process.
118
119 7. Little Falls NRHP Eligibility Determination Update
120 Ms. Kotting is still working on the paperwork to submit to DHR.
121
122 8. 106 Review for Communications Tower/Aquia Church-Update
123 No Update.
124
125 9. Sponsored Interpretive Sign Request commemorating 22nd Regiment of NJ in Civil War Park
126 (letter sent requesting more information 11/3/23)
127 There has been no further communications. This item can be removed from the agenda.
128
129

130 ADDITIONAL PRESENTATIONS BY THE PUBLIC
131

132 None
133

134 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT
135

136 Mr. Tully went to Tyler's Eagle Scout project. Tyler found old wood to make the fence so it fits right in to
137 the surroundings. Mr. Tully, at the request of Tyler's Scoutmaster, threw Tyler a curveball and requested he
138 extend the fence by 6 feet. Tyler was able to extend the fence by using reclaimed wood.
139

140 REPORTS BY COMMISSION MEMBERS
141

142 Ms. Dodd was contacted by cultural resource management from Quantico about the cemeteries on the base.
143 The Cemetery Committee had previously done surveys on the base, not just in Stafford County but Prince
144 William and Fauquier Counties as well. Range Management only had 10 cemeteries on file. Anita had close to
145 100. She will be meeting with personnel on January 25th with all the surveys for them to copy. She also has
146 surveys on homes/buildings that were located on the property. Ms. Dodd got the impression what he was
147 looking for someone to clean up and maintain the cemeteries. 90% of them are inaccessible and better left
148 alone. There are three that can be easily maintained. One is a church cemetery which the church maintains.
149 The other two are Cedar Run and Carver. They were created for those families that wanted their individuals
150 moved from the base. Cedar Run was for white individuals and Carver was for the black individuals. These
151 two cemeteries are very readily accessible and still in use because any member of a family that was moved
152 there can be buried there if they want to.
153

Historical Commission Minutes
January 4, 2024

154 APPROVAL OF MINUTES

155

156 Anita Dodd made a motion to approve the minutes from December 7, 2023.

157

158 Martha Newton seconded the motion.

159

160 The motion passed 4-0.

161

162 ADJOURNMENT

163

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