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2 **STAFFORD COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION MINUTES**

3 **March 7, 2024**
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5 The meeting of the Stafford County Historical Commission of Thursday, March 7, 2024, was called to order
6 at 3:02 PM by James Tully in the Activities Room of the George L. Gordon, Jr., Government Center.
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8 MEMBERS PRESENT: James Tully, Martha Newton, Jane Conner, James Powell and Anita Dodd
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10 MEMBERS ABSENT: Richard Chichester, Frank White
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12 STAFF PRESENT: Nancy Kotting, Crissy Kendall, Kathy Baker
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14 GUESTS PRESENT: Robert Rowlette
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16 CALL TO ORDER:
17

18 Mr. Tully called the meeting to order at 3:02.
19

20 ROLL CALL OF MEMBERS
21

22 Ms. Newton called roll and stated there was a quorum.
23

24 PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS
25

26 Robert Rowlette thanked the Historic Commission for the letter sent to Jarrell Properties which resulted in a
27 proffer for a Phase 1 study to be done on the entire Clift Farms property. While it was a step in the right
28 direction he still has some concerns with the language in the proffer statement. The Leeland Road Railbed
29 and the old Leeland School were not addressed in the statement and should be protected. The application
30 was denied by the Planning Commission but will still go before the Board of Supervisors.
31

32 Mr. Rowlette noted that while doing his research and studying the comprehensive plan he noticed that none
33 of the cultural resources near Clift Farms are on the cultural resources map. These sites include Civil War
34 winter encampments, the Potomac Creek Bridge and the Leeland Colored School. He recommended these
35 sites be added to the map, the cultural resource management plan and the cultural resources inventory need
36 to be updated, plans need to be established for historical easement, long term stewardship plans need to be
37 drafted and a historical preservation ordinance should be established. The Urban Services Area has become a
38 target for developers and needs to be protected.
39

40 Mr. Rowlette offered to speak at the BOS meeting on March 19 in support of the Historic Commission.
41

42 Ms. Dodd mentioned the Commission tried to get a preservation ordinance passed in Stafford County 20
43 years ago and its been in committee ever since.
44

45 NEW BUSINESS
46
47

- 48 1. Dissolution of Historical Commission / Board of Supervisors agenda March 19, 2024
49

50 The Board of Supervisors is looking to reduce the number of Commissions. The Historic
51 Commissions is being considered because a lot of the duties and responsibilities of the Commission

are now being covered by Nancy Kotting's position. The Historical Society has also taken on a bigger role and the Board felt they would be a good conduit for preservation issues.

Commission members discussed the differences between the Historical Society and Historical Commission. The Commission members are appointed by the Board of Supervisors and advise the BOS members and make recommendations about cultural resources in Stafford County. The Historical Society is about assimilating history and the getting the history to individuals in the County and trying to get a museum. Commission members have an institutional memory about preservation in Stafford County and have the opportunity to do hands on restoration work and record cultural resources in hopes of saving them.

Kathy Baker suggested Commission members reach out to the Board members to discuss their thoughts on keeping the Commission. Members should also attend the March 19 Board of Supervisors meeting to speak on behalf of the Commission.

2. Project Review: Celebrate VA Villas at Town Celebrate/Existing Cultural Resource Management Plan

Nancy is reviewing a project that has been submitted for villas being creating in a portion of Celebrate Virginia. When Celebrate VA was first built 20 years ago the developer offered a plan for saving the cultural resources, interpreting them and building a mini museum/cultural center to show what happened on the property in exchange for higher density. The County rejected the proposal at that time. The new project area impacts four resources. The first is the Banks Ford Historical District which encompasses the entire area. One of the priorities of that district is to maintain open viewsapes because of its association with the Civil War. Part of the mitigation in the first round when they built the golf course was to bury three archaeological sites. That mitigation was accepted by the Army Cops of Engineers and by the DHR. The new plan has homes being built on top of those buried archaeological sites. There is a Memorandum of Agreement in place for all of those sites. Ms. Kotting will be reaching out to the DHR and the Army Corps of Engineers to notify them of this project and the MOA. The MOA is in place to protect the Banks Ford Historic District and she thinks the outcome will be a Phase 2 and Phase 3 on the impacted sites.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. Clift Farm Archeological Survey Recommendations: Phase I and Phase II (TM 46-79, 46-79H, 46-80) Planning Commission has voted to recommend denial of both the Zoning Reclassification and the Conditional Use Permit for this project.

The Planning Commission voted to recommend denial on both the zoning reclassification and the conditional use permit for the Clift Farms Project. It will now move forward to the Board of Supervisors meeting on May 7.

2. Nominations for 2023 Historic Preservation Awards

Ms. Kotting asked the Historical Society if they had any interest in taking over the Preservation Awards if the Commission gets dissolved. There is interest but they won't make a final decision until after the decision is made about the Commission. The Commission will move forward with this year's awards.

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Anita nominated the gentleman that worked on the Golgotha Church for the Preservation Award.
Nomination accepted 5/0.

James nominated Tyler Knutson for the Emerging Preservationist Award. Martha Newton seconded.
Nomination accepted 5/0.

The Cemetery Committee nominated Linda Tague for the Cemetery Award for cleaning up the
Wallace Hansford Cemetery and installed a marker for the Revolutionary War soldier that is buried
there. Anita Dodd nominated, Jane Conner seconded. Nomination accepted 5/0.

3. Crow's Nest Outdoor Adventure / Application Update / Phase 1 Archeological Survey
Recommendation

This project is in for its second round of reviews.

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

The archaeologists have worked it down to one particular area that they need to do more intensive
research on so they are making an addendum to the agreement noting that they are conducting
additional research in that particular area and freeing up the rest of the area for the developer to
proceed. The developer will do a partial demolition and allow the salvage company to retrieve the
Aquia stone.

5. Counting House Update: Request for Proposals Status: closing date extended to March 5, 2024

The deadline for response was March 5 and at least one response was received. More info to come.

6. Little Falls NRHP Eligibility Determination Update

The Eligibility Determination paperwork will be going to Randy for signature this week and then
forward to DHR.

ADDITIONAL PRESENTATIONS BY THE PUBLIC

None

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

None

REPORTS BY COMMISSION MEMBERS

Ms. Dodd wanted to make a clarification. During last month's meeting she mentioned a young lady that
wanted to clean up the cemetery at Bloomington for a class project. That project was too large for her
timeline so Anita sent her to the Armstrong Family Cemetery #1. She did a very good job cleaning up that
cemetery.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Martha Newton made a motion to approve the minutes from February 1, 2024.

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153 Jane Connor seconded the motion.

154

155 The motion passed 5-0.

156

157 ADJOURNMENT

158

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