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2 **STAFFORD COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION MINUTES**

3 **June 6, 2024**
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5 The meeting of the Stafford County Historical Commission of Thursday, June 6, 2024, was called to order at
6 3:02 PM by James Tully in the ABC Room of the George L. Gordon, Jr., Government Center.
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8 MEMBERS PRESENT: James Tully, Martha Newton, Jane Conner, James Powell, Frank White and
9 Anita Dodd
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11 MEMBERS ABSENT: Richard Chichester
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13 STAFF PRESENT: Nancy Kotting, Crissy Kendall
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15 GUESTS PRESENT:
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17 CALL TO ORDER:
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19 Mr. Tully called the meeting to order at 3:02.
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21 ROLL CALL OF MEMBERS
22

23 Ms. Newton called roll and stated there was a quorum.
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25 PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS
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28 NEW BUSINESS
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30 Ms. Kotting requested an amendment to the agenda to add two items; a proclamation suggestion for the BOS
31 and an update on the Little Falls eligibility determination. Martha Newton made a motion to amend. Anita
32 Dodd seconded. Motion passed 6/0.
33

34 1. Proposed 199-Ft. Monopole Telecommunications Structure, 845 Courthouse Road
35 An application has been submitted for a telecommunication structure at 845 Courthouse Road. It is
36 located on a historic resource that has been reviewed by DHR. It is currently under a section 106
37 review by the Army Corps of Engineers and DHR. The DHR ID is 0895162. Anita requested a site
38 visit to record the house if it is still standing.
39

40 2. Sherwood Forest Farm Historic Resource Overlay District Recommendation Initiated
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42 Mr. Diggs has been informed of the recommendation for a historic overlay at Sherwood Forest Farm.
43 Ms. Kotting will make sure he is comfortable with all the information before adding this item to the
44 BOS Agenda. Ms. Kotting also spoke with the Director of Economic Development.
45

46 3. Byram's Corner Naming Request from Supervisor English
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48 Supervisor English asked for the Commission's assistance in naming the corner of Mountain View
49 and Kellogg Mill Byron's Corner. The Byron family donated the land for the rescue squad and
50 operated the store at that corner for many years. Ms. Newton motioned to help Supervisor English
51 with the naming of the corner. Ms. Conner seconded the motion. After some discussion it was
52 decided more information would be needed. Mr. Powell amended the motion to state the Commission

will assist Mr. English with the rename once they get more information. Ms. Dodd seconded. Motion passed 6/0. Ms. Newton will reach out to Supervisor English to find out what he has in mind for signage for the corner.

4. New African American Heritage Trail Project Underway

Ms. Kotting spoke on the African American Heritage Trail Project for informational purposes only. The county is in collaboration with UMW using interns in their GIS program to create the GIS identifiers for the trail. It will be an extension of the existing Trail to Freedom in Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania. The targeted launch date is Fall of 2024. Ms. Kotting will be working to ensure the credibility of the content of the interpretive efforts here in the County. There is a really highly qualified group of individuals doing the research and assisting in developing content for this project, including Mr. White who has been instrumental in creating this Heritage Trail. Sue Henderson is the lead contact on the project. Ms. Kotting will inform the Commission of the launch date.

5. VA250 Project Launched Focusing on John Hunter and Hunter Iron Works

Ms. Kotting provided information for informational purposes. The Virginia Celebration is spanning six years. There's a lot of funding for it coming out of Richmond and DC to celebrate the American Revolution. A Hunter decedent has made a presentation and will be doing a project based on Hunter Iron Works and their role in the Revolutionary War. The idea is to lift up the presence of Hunter Iron Works and its role in Stafford County's history. Hunter Iron Works was one of the first examples of industrialization on the continent.

Ms. Dodd added that on Memorial Day 2026 the cemetery committee will be placing wreaths on the graves of our reported participants that are buried in church cemeteries. There are approximately 250 individuals that were involved.

6. Pending Identification of Previously Undocumented Slave Cemetery in Stafford

There is a farm called Walnut Farm at the corner of Rock Hill Church Road and Valley View. There is a family cemetery on the farm but there is oral history of a slave cemetery that was reported to be in the field next to the property. Ms. Dodd investigated the area and didn't find anything that suggested a cemetery, no stones/depressions. The developer did a Phase 1 in the area and found nothing. Ms. Dodd has received more information from concerned neighbors that the slave cemetery might be in a different area of the property. Ms. Dodd would like to notify the developer of the other possible location of the slave cemetery and make them aware of another cultural resource on the property. There is a substantial stone wall, sometimes referred to as a slave wall. It is not a slave wall, meaning built by slaves. She believes it was built by the Quakers that were in that part of the County in the 1700s and were here to work at Hunters Iron Works. This resource needs to be saved, recorded and researched. The wall is made of granite. The property is not currently being developed but the developer is proposing to eventually build houses. This item will be added to the agenda for the next meeting.

7. Proclamation Suggestion – Added to the agenda

Community engagement suggested the Historical Commission request a proclamation from the BOS recognizing Norman Schools and his contributions. Ms. Dodd made the motion to request a proclamation for Norman Schools. Jane Conner Seconded. Motion passed, 6/0.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. Scheel Map Sales Proceeds- Interpretive Sign Inventory Evaluation Needed

It was decided the money raised would be used to replace or update signage. An inventory of the signs is needed. We need to assess the condition, prioritize replacements and review the sign content. Pictures would be helpful to review the content. Parks and Rec will develop an annual review from this list. Anita and Martha will take on this project.

2. Celebrate Virginia Development Review: Status of 2001 MOA (VDHR #98-2257)

Ms. Kotting has reached out to the Army Corps of Engineers to see if the existing MOA is still in play and enforceable. One party no longer exists. It has a 25-year expiration date. Signed in October 2001 puts the expiration date at October 2026. Ms. Kotting reached out to the person who oversees the 106 compliance and is waiting on a response to see if it null and void or still enforceable.

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

Ms. Kotting is waiting for two inventories from Connie Hilker and Tim Winter of Dominion on what was salvaged. She will turn that inventory over to DHR. Archeological reports are being wrapped up but the County's obligations under the MLA should be closed. This item can be removed from the agenda.

4. Counting House Update: Request for Proposals Status: Under Review

This is continuing through the review process and should remain on the agenda.

5. Commission Member Recruitment Update

Minutes were sent to an individual for review but there has been no update since then.

6. Little Falls - Added to the Agenda

The preliminary information form which was used to do an evaluation was sent to the Reginal Office for review. The Regional Office is recommending it as potentially eligible based on architecture. An archeologist needs to take a deeper look to see if may also be eligible based on archeology. It is being sent back to Richmond for the formal evaluation.

ADDITIONAL PRESENTATIONS BY THE PUBLIC

None

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The Commission already discussed the Byron Corner issue.

Mr. Tully received an email from Mr. Brito who had tax questions and concerns about historical archeological sites on the property at Celebrate Virginia. Scott Mayausky answered the tax issue and Mr. Tully will respond to the other questions.

REPORTS BY COMMISSION MEMBERS

Historical Commission Minutes
June 6, 2024

Ms. Dodd reported the stone mason should be done soon with the headstone for the cemetery at NSHS. The cemetery committee cleared the path for him to get to the site and set the stone. Stafford County Schools still has not put up a fence so there is concern that a \$6000 stone will be installed without protection. Ms. Dodd is going to call to try to get the fence in place. She is also going to ask for help from the NSHS Honor Society and Rotary Club with upkeep of the cemetery.

Glen Haven Cemetery is a privately-owned cemetery that sells lots to individuals who wish to be buried there. Relatives of people buried there have started complaining that it is not being taken care of. Ms. Dodd has tried to reach out to the person who owned the property about 20 years ago when they first surveyed it. Ms. Kotting found that there was a sale of the property to a local holding company. Ms. Dodd will attempt to contact the holding company to ascertain if there was an ongoing maintenance agreement that traveled with the sale. Because so many complaints have been placed with Supervisors it has been referred to code enforcement for tall grass.

Ms. Dodd asked about burials on Tax Map 39-a and 39-4a. Ms. Kotting asked if she could add the item to the agenda for next month. She asked if members have anything they would like to talk about at the next meeting please submit it in advance so that it can be added to the agenda.

Ms. Newton received a call from Mr. McConnell from King George. He was looking for information on Sheriffs in 1666. Ms. Newton provided him the email to the Stafford Historical Society for more information.

Ms. Newton reported Supervisor English responded and he would like some sort of marker in the area of the rescue squad. Mr. Tully asked Ms. Newton to ask about funding, what kind of sign and what kind of history, if any, he'd like to see on the sign.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Anita Dodd made a motion to approve the minutes from May 2, 2024 with amendments.

Martha Newton seconded the motion.

The motion passed 6-0.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to discuss, Mr. Tully adjourned the meeting at 3:58