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2 **STAFFORD COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION MINUTES**

3 **July 11, 2024**

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5 The meeting of the Stafford County Historical Commission of Thursday, July 11, 2024, was called to order
6 at 3:00 PM by Anita Dodd in the ABC Room of the George L. Gordon, Jr., Government Center.

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8 MEMBERS PRESENT: Martha Newton, Jane Conner, James Powell, Frank White and Anita Dodd

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10 MEMBERS ABSENT: Richard Chichester, James Tully

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12 STAFF PRESENT: Nancy Kotting, Crissy Kendall

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14 GUESTS PRESENT: None

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16 CALL TO ORDER:

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18 Ms. Dodd called the meeting to order at 3:00.

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20 ROLL CALL OF MEMBERS

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

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24 VOTE TO ACCEPT/AMEND AGENDA

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26 A motion to accept the published agenda was made by Jane Conner. Martha Newton seconded. Motion
27 passed.

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29 PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS

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32 NEW BUSINESS

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34 1. Proposed Recommendation to Acquire and Install Palmer Hayden Artwork in Gov't Center

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36 Mr. Tully felt it appropriate for the Historical Commission to suggest to County Admin that local
37 artist Palmer Hayden's artwork be prominently displayed in the government center. Ms. Conner
38 suggested the painting *Baptizing Day* be used since it is set in Widewater. Martha Newton made a
39 motion to recommend a letter be sent to community engagement to recommend Hayden's artwork is
40 displayed. Jane Conner seconded. Motion passed, 5/0.

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42 2. Proposed Demolition of Quantico Building 2106: Section 106 Review Complete

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44 This was a large building that was in the pathway of an airstrip and was violating safety rules. A
45 section 106 review was done and the building will be demolished. Stafford County is a consulting
46 party on activities like this.

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48 3. Clifton Chapel, National Register of Historic Places Eligibility: Not Yet Evaluated; Architectural
49 Review Board Recommends Historic Resource Overlay District

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51 The ARB has voted to recommend to the BOS a zoning reclassification to put a historic resource
52 overlay district at Clifton Chapel. The building itself has not been evaluated for significance and

eligibility for listing on the National Register. A letter has been sent to the owner to notify them of the recommendation by the ARB. Ms. Kotting will update the Commission of any changes.

4. Stafford County African American Heritage Trail (Discover Stafford Project) Update

Sue Henderson is working on this. Content is being produced. The next phase is the review. They hope to have the review phase complete by the end of July and a launch celebration in September. The city of Fredericksburg has taken over the Trail to Freedom website, upgraded it and listed all the sites in Fredericksburg. The sites in Stafford are not listed. This will need to be addressed.

5. Little Falls Farm National Register of Historic Places Eligibility Determination
Complete: Eligible

Little Falls Farm was determined to be eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under criteria C, which is architecture and possibly criteria D, archeology and research potential. If any project creates an impact or has potential to create an impact on the building and it involves federal funding we'll have the opportunity to mitigate those impacts. Ms. Kotting will be in communication through Parks and Rec with the leasee to let them know of its eligibility and that we would like them to be a little more careful with exterior changes. She will also be reviewing the lease with Parks and Recs.

6. National Historic Landmark Application Underway in Collaboration with the National Park Service-Fredericksburg – Riverfront location of Self Emancipation in 1862

In 1862 the self-emancipation of 10,000 to 12,000 individuals along the river had a profound national/global impact. Information uncovered makes the location of the event at the Falmouth Waterfront more than likely to meet the criteria to render that area a National Landmark. Ms. Kotting is working with the National Park Service to begin the application process. This is a two to three-year process. Prior to the start of the war, the enslaved were meeting and organizing in preparation for the eventual granting of freedom and release from bondage. Prior to Lincoln signing the Emancipation Proclamation, news of these mass numbers of people with the courage to self-emancipate by crossing the river to come into Stafford got to Lincoln and there are many scholars who believe that that put the pressure on Lincoln to sign the Emancipation Proclamation. The very first footfalls of freedom happened here in Stafford County for these individuals and that demonstration of courage is something that needs to be acknowledged with a National Landmark designation.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

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

The signs at Aquia Landing have been documented. Ms. Dodd and Ms. Newton will get together in August to really dig into this project. Ms. Kotting is going to meet with Lisa Logan to get a better understanding of each department's responsibility for signage.

2. Byram's Corner Naming Request from Supervisor English

Ms. Newton spoke to Supervisor English but hasn't had a chance to go to the site to see where the sign should be placed. Ms. Newton will take a picture of the intersection and contact VDOT to see what the procedure is to get the sign placed.

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

Ms. Kotting left a message with the person in charge of reviews and has not received a call back at this time. She will provide an update at a later time.

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

Still in process.

5. Commission Member Recruitment Update

James Tully needs to reach out to Meg Bomke to have her nominate someone.

ADDITIONAL PRESENTATIONS BY THE PUBLIC

None

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

REPORTS BY COMMISSION MEMBERS

Ms. Dodd would like to discuss getting permission to document buildings on the Cranes Corner Data Center property. Because this was not mentioned at the start of the meeting it cannot be added to this agenda. It will be added to next month's agenda for discussion.

Mr. White made an announcement that in February of 1956 his sister applied to Mary Washington College. She was the first black woman to apply to MWC. She was denied because of her skin color. She earned her Bachelor's and Master's at Virginia State University and taught in Richmond at the Franklin Military Academy. On July 18th MWC is going to honor her with the Monroe Medal which acknowledges extraordinary career achievement used to benefit humanity and society. The ceremony is open to the public.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Martha Newton made a motion to approve the minutes from June 6, 2024 with amendments.

Jane Conner seconded the motion.

The motion passed 5/0.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to discuss, Ms. Dodd adjourned the meeting at 3:58