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2 **STAFFORD COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION MINUTES**

3 **April 3, 2025**

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5 The meeting of the Stafford County Historical Commission on Thursday, April 3, 2025, was called to order
6 at 3:02 PM by Anita Dodd in the Activities Room of the George L. Gordon, Jr., Government Center.

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8 MEMBERS PRESENT: Martha Newton, Frank White, Jane Conner, Emma Dietrich and Anita Dodd

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10 MEMBERS ABSENT: James Powell

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12 STAFF PRESENT: Nancy Kotting, Crissy Kendall

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14 GUESTS PRESENT: Kristen Maxon

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16 CALL TO ORDER:

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18 Ms. Dodd called the meeting to order at 3:02.

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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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27 PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS

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29 Ms. Maxon is concerned about public land being sold to private parties such as the White Oak Museum. She
30 also is concerned about R23-325 where there was a small area on the Jackson property within the historical
31 plot that they designated as commercial. Her concern is where you draw the line between commercial,
32 campus, education, historical or public.

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34 NEW BUSINESS

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36 1. County invited to collaborate in The Slave Dwelling Project with National Park
37 Service/Fredericksburg

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39 This project is happening in 2026 by an organization out of South Carolina. There will be programs
40 at Chatham, Mary Washington House and the Sanford Burgess slave cabin. There will be
41 opportunities for guests to stay overnight for storytelling and reenactments. There is a website for
42 more information.

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44 2. 50-Year Rule Request: 120 Lorenzo Drive

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46 The homeowner would like to retain the existing home and build a second residential dwelling on the
47 property. It is not in a historic overlay district and has not been evaluated for determination of
48 eligibility on the National Register of Historic Places. It does meet the 50-year age requirement. TM
49 55-111 zoned A1. Staff recommends approval of the application. Martha Newton made a motion to
50 approve the request. Jane Connor seconded the motion. Motion carried, 5/0. Anita will reach out to
51 the owners to request permission to draw up the original structure.

3. 2024 Historic Preservation Awards Cancelled

There are no awards this year. In honor of Historic Preservation month stories featuring an aspect of historic preservation will be featured on the county's social media sites. The goal is to talk about historic preservation and the role of creating community. The four stories will be on country stores, farming, industries and chapels.

4. Review of past Historic Commission discussion of most endangered list - Anita Dodd to report

Anita would like to update the endangered resource list. This item will remain on the agenda for discussion.

5. Staff update: County-wide historic resources survey – Matching Grant Application through Virginia Department of Historic Resources

The last survey was done in 1992. It is recommended a new survey be done every five to 10 years. Ms. Kotting planned to request permission to file an application for the grant at the April 15th BOS but the item was cut from the agenda. Ms. Kotting will try again next year.

Ms. Dodd requested an update to the Duff Green application be added to next month's agenda.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. Staff Updates on VA250 celebration plans- Hunters Iron Works

There are preliminary plans for the construction of a data center on the Blaisdell property. The southeastern part of the parcel contains the archeological remains of Hunter's Iron Works. James Hunter and Hunter Iron Works was responsible for arming the Patriots in the Revolutionary War. A 501c3 has been formed and is working with the developer to work on preservation and interpretation of the site. A Phase 1 has been done and a Phase II will be done.

2. Staff Update: Lexington Farms/Walnut Hill Farm Slave Cemetery identification and delineation

A second attempt to delineate the cemetery using ground penetrating radar has been completed. They went out 150 feet out from the remaining cedar tree and they did not find any signs of any burials. The developer was reminded that they are required by law to cease operation if they come across anything such as human remains or cultural artifacts.

ADDITIONAL PRESENTATIONS BY THE PUBLIC

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The cemetery committee continues to work on the re-surveying of church cemeteries in preparation for putting out a book about churches cemeteries in Stafford.

On April 26 Ms. Dodd will be giving a tour of the Falmouth cemetery and talking about some of the markers and people buried there as well as the history of the Hobby School. Jerrie McGregor will talk about the remains of the Union Church. The rain date is May 3rd.

Historical Commission Minutes
April 3, 2025

REPORTS BY COMMISSION MEMBERS

None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Martha Newton made a motion to approve the minutes from February 6, 2025.

Frank White seconded the motion.

The motion passed 4-0. Ms. Dietrich abstained.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to discuss, Anita Dodd adjourned the meeting at 3:42.