

June 5, 2025

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Historical Commission Minutes
June 5, 2025

2. A preliminary plan for a data center located on Route 3 has been submitted. There are a number of parcels involved but Ms. Kotting asked to focus on the one south of Route 3. This parcel contains 5 archeological sites, 2 cemeteries and Albion, which was deemed eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. Ms. Kotting believes the development impacts the integrity of the context for Albion. The applicant has done two phase 1 studies covering all the parcels for both north and south. Ms. Dodd and Ms. Dietrich asked for physical copies of the studies. The deadline for submitting comments is June 25 so if members would like to comment please email Ms. Kotting and she will forward comments to the planner. There are a number of significant cultural and historic resources in the area, enough to create a historic rural district but we are on the verge of losing the context of the whole area.
3. Update to the 985 White Oak COA – The applicant attended the ARB meeting. The application was approved as submitted with (5) modification which requires it to be restored to what it was prior to the unpermitted work that was done.
4. Staffordshire, a residential development, contains the Stone Family Cemetery. There are issues with the 35-foot buffer because of a road that comes in. They are undergoing additional survey work in order to get that buffer without altering the road. Ms. Kotting will keep the commission updated.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

ADDITIONAL PRESENTATIONS BY THE PUBLIC

Ms. Maxon is concerned about the school (985 White Oak Road), a previous public property, being sold to a private party.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Ms. Dodd reports that the cemetery committee helped investigate a report of a cemetery being demolished. It was not demolished. It was moved across the street to Glen Haven Memory Gardens. It was found that the way the deed was written allowed the owner to move the burial site without permission from the state.

Ms. Dodd spoke with the owner of the property which contains the Bumbrey/Lee cemetery. The owner had questions about establishing a family cemetery on the property across the street from this cemetery. He is interested in making both parcels tax exempt. Ms. Dodd referred him to zoning for more information.

REPORTS BY COMMISSION MEMBERS

The decision was made to cancel the July meeting for the holiday.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Martha Newton made a motion to approve the minutes from May 2, 2025. Jane Conner seconded the motion. The motion passed 4-0, Emma Dietrich abstained.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to discuss, Anita Dodd adjourned the meeting at 3:46.

Stafford County-Owned Historic Resources Staff Update

Stafford County Historical Commission

June 6, 2025

Shelton Cottage

Shelton Cottage remains under threat from flood. If the Rappahannock crests at 13' or above, the threshold of the cottage is breached. Staff has observed continued deterioration of foundation timbers due to water damage. The roof appears to be in good condition while the exterior contains evidence of paint failure. Several shutters need repair. The front stoop and porch deck need replacement. The accessibility ramp remains in good condition.

Staff has recommended the relocation of the cottage out of the flood zone as it cannot currently be used due to flood risk. Preliminary project funding may be available in 2028, intended for rehabilitation due to the deterioration of studs and possible structural failure.

Rowser Building

Facilities is currently painting the exterior of the Rowser building as part of routine maintenance. There is no color change. The building continues to be well-maintained.

Grizzle Building

The Grizzle building remains in a state of active deterioration. The county periodically secures boarded windows, however vandalism continues to occur. Staff is not aware of any current definitive plans for the building.

Magistrates Office (site visit pending)

Duff Green House

The Duff Green House is currently leased by the Tribe and is being maintained by them. The Architectural Review Board has referred the property to the Board of Supervisors for a Historic Resource Overlay based upon the finding that the property is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. The request has not yet been placed on the BOS agenda. The Architectural Review Board sent the tribe a letter informing them of the referral and requesting that they voluntarily utilize the Stafford County Design Review Guidelines when considering any exterior changes to the building.

Bloomington House & Cemetery (Patawomeck Park)

County staff did extensive clearing of brush and overgrowth at the site last season. I met with the supervisor for the project on site and we identified various plants that were to remain undisturbed. Growth over the ruins was allowed to remain to deter the public from disturbing them.

The next step will be to create a clear, natural trailway through the site and install interpretive signage. Additional research is needed on the site to create appropriate content for both the structures and the landscape features. A maintenance plan for the site is also needed.

Government Island

(site visit scheduled pending)

Civil War Park

The installation of Buzzards Roost is complete; The county continues to maintain the park, however I would like to review the maintenance protocols to develop best practices for maintaining some of the features such as earthworks, iron works, etc.

Brooks Park

Maintenance ongoing

Pratt Park

Maintenance ongoing

Historic Port of Falmouth

The beach area remains open to the public, with public parking available. There is currently no plan to expand public parking in this area. Debris removal remains an ongoing issue.

Aquia Landing

Ongoing maintenance.

Counting House

RFP is being processed. Working through particulars of the final agreement with the county attorney's office and the Board of Supervisors

Lake Mooney Cabin/Sanford Burgess Cemetery & Domestic Ruins

The cabin restoration remains incomplete. The security fence is still in place and kept locked. One attempt to secure grant funding to complete the restoration was unsuccessful. Potential budget funding for 2026 has been pushed out to 2031. Staff will continue to identify funding for the completion of the restoration which includes windows, doors and flooring as well as interior chinking.

The tall spruce tree has been removed and an interpretive sign has been installed.

Native American Memorial (at Aquia - Interpretive signage, 2846 Brooke Rd)

Parks and Rec is in the process of discussing the renewal of the lease on this property.