

STAFFORD COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION MINUTES
September 4, 2025

The meeting of the Stafford County Historical Commission on Thursday, September 4, 2025, was called to order at 3:00 PM by Chairman Anita Dodd in the ABC Conference Room of the George L. Gordon, Jr., Government Center.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Anita Dodd, Jane Conner, Martha Newton, Frank White

MEMBERS ABSENT: Emma Dietrich, James Powell

STAFF PRESENT: Nancy Kotting, Vicki Sowers

GUESTS PRESENT:

CALL TO ORDER

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

ROLL CALL OF MEMBERS

Roll was called and there was a quorum.

VOTE TO ACCEPT/AMEND AGENDA

Ms. Conner made a motion to accept the agenda as presented. Ms. Newton seconded the motion. Motion passed, 4-0.

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS

NEW BUSINESS

Fippo Family Cemetery #2 Requires Re-Survey

Ms. Dodd explained that when the Salem United Methodist Church cemetery survey was conducted, the Fippo cemetery was included because it was immediately adjacent. She has since found out that the Fippo Family cemetery is not part of the United Methodist Church cemetery and needs to be separated out. She advised that the cemetery committee is going to the location on Sunday to conduct and get the correct survey information for both cemeteries.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. Staff Update: Sherwood Forest Farm - Board of Supervisors to Consider Initiating Historic Resource Overlay District

Ms. Kotting provided an update on the request presented to the Board of Supervisors to initiate a zoning reclassification for a Historic Resource Overlay District on 540.986 acres, including Sherwood Forest Farm. She said the Board has deferred the request to be heard in January 2026. Ms. Dodd raised concerns about a possible slave cemetery on the property, located near the railroad track. She suggested further investigation. In addition, Ms. Kotting explained that the parcel of land immediately north of this area, tax parcel #59-70 is included in the general development plan of the proposed data center. She said the

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Architectural Review Board is aware of the existing four archeological sites on tax parcel #59-70 property and has recommended a Phase II review which could lead to a Phase III, if eligible. She also recommended further investigation to locate possible slave quarters on the property.

2. Staff Update: Celebrate Virginia Development Reviews, Recreational Business Campus Zoning and Historic Resources

Ms. Kotting explained that the previous Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), with regard to the Celebrate Virginia Villas development review, is not enforceable by the County for the next development phase due to the County not being a party to it. It only involves the DHR, the Army Corps of Engineers and any remaining signatories to the original agreement. She said the US Army Corp of Engineers did not step forward to implement a review. The Historic Review has been approved; the two archeological sites are within the limits of disturbance for the project.

ADDITIONAL PRESENTATIONS BY THE PUBLIC

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Ms. Dodd inquired about the status of the Grizzle Building deed. Ms. Kotting advised it had been sent to the County's legal department, but she has not gotten a response yet. Ms. Dodd also requested that the Parks & Rec Dept. add a line-item budget for the preservation and restoration of the cultural resources that are on park property. Ms. Kotting said she assesses conditions and is currently working on funds to complete the Sandford cabin. The next on the list is Shelton's Cottage. Ms. Dodd said she is looking for a more organized and effective way to take care of these buildings. She wants to know what the process is, how and who to talk to in order to get county funds appropriated.

Ms. Dodd said she has been in touch with Board members Tanisha Allen and Pamela Yeung. They have not provided an appointee to the commission as of yet. She gave Tanisha Rob Orson's name, and she responded that he would be a good candidate and would offer her support. Ms. Yeung said she had spoken to Mr. Powell, but another individual had applied to be part of the Historical Commission. She said two new members will hopefully be joining soon.

CEMETERY COMMITTEE REPORT

Ms. Dodd reported that the cemetery committee is working on a book and is on track to be completed in the next couple of months.

REPORTS BY COMMISSION MEMBERS

Ms. Newton advised she will not be able to make the October 2nd meeting.

Ms. Kotting invited all on a tour taking place on Government Island on October 6th.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Ms. Newton made a motion to approve the minutes from July 3, 2025. Ms. Conner seconded the motion. The motion passed 4-0.

(There were no August minutes to approve – meeting was cancelled due to lack of quorum.)

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ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to discuss, Anita Dodd adjourned the meeting at 3:23 PM.