

## Spotsylvania County Historic Preservation Commission

10304 Spotsylvania Avenue, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor (Community Development Conference Room),  
Fredericksburg, Virginia 22408

### **March 19, 2009 Minutes**

**Call to Order:** Ms. King called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

**Members Present:**

Brenda King, Chair	Salem
Anne Beals,	Livingston
Kira Fredenburgh	Chancellor
Betty Bazemore	Berkeley
Clifton Vaughan	Courtland

**Members Absent:**

Christopher A. Ruskin	Battlefield
Cristine Lynch, Vice Chair	Lee Hill

**Staff Present:**

Wanda Parrish, Director of Planning
Paulette Mann, Commission Secretary

**Determination of Quorum:** A quorum was present.

**Approval of minutes:** Ms. Beals made a motion, seconded by Mr. Vaughan to approve the minutes of February 19, 2009. The motion passed 4-0, with Ms. Bazemore not yet present.

### **Announcements:**

Ms. King thanked the Commission for their confidence in her by electing her as Chairperson of the Commission.

Ms. Parrish advised the Commission of a training opportunity in Charlottesville April 3-11.

Ms. Beals stated that on Good Friday, the garden club will plant a tree in memory of Anne Rowe. She stated that she is the wife of the family who owns the paper.

### **Unfinished Business:**

Ms. King stated that regarding the Spotswood Inn violation, she has spoken to Caroline Hayden regarding the award that was given by SPFI. She stated that she was informed by Caroline that the reason they were given the award was for the appropriate repair and maintenance regarding the windows and painting, not for the replacement of the deck, which was completed after their recognition was given.

Ms. Parrish stated that the violation at this point is in the hands of the County Attorney's office.

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Ms. Fredenburgh agreed that the award was given just before they came to the Commission for the COA.

Ms. Parrish stated that any award given by SPFI has no bearing on a government action.

Ms. Bazemore stated that the Commission gave the applicant guidelines and they were just not followed.

Ms. King inquired if there were any additional comments on the annual report.

Ms. Beals stated that she would be sending it to the Board of Supervisors.

Ms. King inquired if the Commission tabled items that come to the Commission. She stated that she was reading the minutes of June 21, 2007 and it appeared that the Commission tabled the vote on the HP07-01: Mark S. Gardner & Ronald M. Maupin, request for a COA for a one story office building on a current vacant 1.26 acre lot, south of the Old Post Office Building and was wondering why this was tabled.

Ms. Parrish stated that because we are a certified local government, we have to retain certain expertise, which we had in Mr. Chaves. He was an architect that the Commission worked with back then and the Commission tabled the COA to benefit from the expertise of an architect.

**Discussion Item(s):**

**Preservation Month**

Ms. Parrish stated that Mr. Deci suggested that for Preservation Month, the Commission honor Ms. Hayden for her outstanding efforts in preservation.

The Commission discussed her dates of service to the County and it was determined that Ms. Hayden represented the Battlefield District and not the Salem District as the Resolution stated.

The Commission discussed who should contact Ms. Hayden to let her know that she would be honored in May.

Ms. Beals agreed to do so.

**Staff Report(s):**

Ms. Parrish provided a brief update on the Chancellor/Gordon Roads Improvement. She stated that she sent out the letter to VDOT and informed them that staff and the HPC concur with their findings of the environmental study.

Ms. Parrish stated that we may see more of these with all of the county's road projects.

Ms. King stated that this communication is good.

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Ms. Beals briefly discussed one of her Garden Club projects where they planted trees to protect the viewshed and provide buffer at Ferry Farm and VDOT came in and cut all of the trees down.

She also discussed trees that her late husband nurtured along the roadway of their farm and the same thing happened there.

**Potential Overlay District Expansion**

Ms. Parrish stated that staff was contacted by Mt. Zion United Methodist Church, regarding a potential overlay district inclusion. She stated that they are pursuing placement on the National Register. She stated that the members just wanted to discuss the pros and cons of being placed in the overlay and what the benefits would be to the church.

She stated that they really haven't decided what they would like to do. She stated that staff suggested that perhaps two members of the HPC could go out and talk to them. Also suggested was the idea of coming up with a faux COA and go through the motions so that they could see what the process is like.

Ms. Parrish stated that staff informed the church that the HPC is here to assist them.

Ms. King inquired why they are interested.

Ms. Parrish stated that one gentleman in particular has a great passion for the church's history and wants to preserve it. She stated that he sees the church as a proud historically significant church.

Ms. King suggested that perhaps we should have a listing of the benefits such as the increase in property value, assessment grants, both state and federal grants that they could be eligible for.

Ms. Parrish briefly discussed the differences in National Register, easements, and historic overlays.

Mr. Fredenburgh and Ms. Beals volunteered to speak to the church members.

Ms. Parrish stated that she would coordinate for Ms. Beals, Ms. Fredenburgh and staff to meet with the church members.

**Potential future COA application for Massaponax Baptist Church:**

Ms. Parrish stated that they submitted a plan for permitting interior maintenance and in the notes it was discussed the replacement of windows on the annex portion of the church and not the historic building. She stated that this would trigger a certificate of appropriateness.

Ms. Fredenburgh stated that the church needs exterior work as well.

**New Business**

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Ms. King stated that she had recently read a FLS newspaper article concerning a conservation easement property in the Lake Anna area, which mentioned the presence of a slave cabin and cemetery, this information had aroused her interest in inquiring whether Spotsylvania County could catalog/list such properties. She said that besides the cataloging and listing of Civil War era plantation homes and cemeteries, some interest should be shown by the County, for those, “invisible and forgotten souls who made plantation life possible, and enabled the prosperity of the South, our region included.

She stated that she was reminded of the bus tour that she went on with Jervis Hairston in the city of Fredericksburg and thought that she knows very little about black history in Spotsylvania.

Ms. King stated that she believes it would be a great idea to apply for grants to do so not only for historic preservation but to promote tourism.

There was discussion to tie in the sesquicentennial in April to promote diversity and inclusiveness.

Ms. Fredenburgh stated that she completely agrees with Ms. King, however many of these properties are privately owned.

Ms. Beals stated that there is very little physical evidence in the County, but much oral history.

Ms. King stated that just as we catalog buildings we should do some kind of cataloging of this history.

The Commission discussed Kunta Kinte and Ruth Carter Fitzgerald and their history in the County.

Ms. Parrish stated that there are grants however many are cost share grants. She reminded the Commission that our budgets and staff have been cut quite significantly because of the economic downturn.

Ms. King mentioned that it would be nice to have The Free Lance Star article written if the Mount Zion Group decided to go through the Historic Overlay District. The Commission discussed Roger Mansfield’s book that cataloged old properties.

Ms. King stated that she just sees such an opportunity to expand the Black history in the County. She stated that she was pleased to know that the Tourism Office had received a grant to develop a driving tour with designated spots identifying black history in the County.

The Commission stated that the first thing to do would be to look for grants.

Ms. Parrish stated that she could contact the County’s grant administrator to look for grants related to black history for us to pursue.

**Adjournment**

**Motion and vote:** Ms. Beals made a motion, seconded by Ms. Fredenburgh to adjourn. The motion

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passed 5-0.

The meeting adjourned at 6:30.

\_\_\_*Paulette Mann*\_\_\_

Paulette L. Mann Commission Secretary

Approved: \_April 16, 2009\_

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