

**STAFFORD COUNTY ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW BOARD MINUTES**  
**November 6, 2017**

The meeting of the Stafford County Architectural Review Board of Monday, November 6, 2017, was called to order at 6:33 p.m. by Chairman Jeromy Range, in the ABC Conference Room of the George L. Gordon, Jr., Government Center.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Paul Eakin, Tanya Gossett, Doris McAdams and Jeromy Range

MEMBERS ABSENT: Sherry Bailey, Charles Dodgen and Mark Osborn

STAFF PRESENT: Kathy Baker and Denise Knighting

GUEST PRESENT: None

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Range called the meeting to order and asked Ms. Knighting to call roll.

ROLL CALL OF MEMBERS

Ms. Knighting called roll and stated there was a quorum present.

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS

None

NEW BUSINESS

1. Bethlehem Primitive Baptist Church – National Register Nomination

Mr. Range stated the ARB had been asked to submit comments regarding the national register nomination for Bethlehem Primitive Baptist Church. He asked for comments from the ARB members.

Ms. Gossett stated Bethlehem Primitive Baptist Church was a three component site of a cemetery, existing church, and the site of the previous church. Her first comment was on the first page; it was noted that the applicable National Register criteria was A, but should have read A and D based on the information within the nomination. Section 7, page 6, in the last paragraph there was a comment made by the authors of the nomination; it could be ascertained that interments included those born during slavery and she would recommend an additional bit of information be included to explain that the authors were not concluding that the individuals were not enslaved people but simply that they were born during the time prior to emancipation as it was spelled out in a later portion of the nomination. On page 7-10 there was a comment regarding the 1951 church. At the end of the second sentence it stated *during the pre-civil rights era...* She made a recommendation that the phrase at the end be stricken as it was very difficult to put bookends around the civil rights era or movement and she recommended that 1951 was not outside of that era. Regarding the archeological information related to the 1870 church site in Section 7, pages 13 and 14, she would ask if there were other features identified and if a site map would be included with the nomination. She stated in reading the nomination, it was unclear that White Oak Primitive Baptist Church was a mostly white congregation, so it might be worthwhile to add information that stated the members who decided to separate themselves from White Oak were African-American. She stated she

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felt it would be useful to include information as to the growth of the congregation over time. Information was provided concerning the activities of the members and the different types of things the church did, and the leadership roll it took during the Civil Rights Era in Stafford County, but the size of the congregation was not clear. She also recommended that the first several lines of Section 8, page 21, more information about Anthony Burns be included. Continuing in Section 8 on page 22, in the paragraph regarding the 1870 church site, there were several sentences near the end of the paragraph that appeared to be speculative and she would ask the authors to clarify some of the comments in terms of the historic record. Section 8, page 23, at the end of the first full paragraph, talking about the 1870 church which was no longer extant, *the site relates to the history of the region, it lay the foundation upon which a new church edifice would play a future prominent role in the civil rights movement and integration, there are no know similar sites.* She asked for clarification from the authors as to what they meant as there are no know similar sites and explain the geographic range of the comment. She stated that same question comes up again in the paragraph entitled context, that paragraph ends with there are no known similar sites. Clarification would be good in both instances.

Mr. Eakin stated on page 7, section 6, the line that starts in 1951 a new church was built. He asked if the second line was a typo where it started with cemetery. He stated in section 7-9, there was mention about the tombstones and most of them noted World War I or World War II, the one for Howard Wright only stated dates. He asked if that was the actual inscription.

Ms. Gossett stated she also had that same question and thought clarification would be helpful. She stated she was pleased to see the nomination come forward, as it was a very worthy site.

Mr. Range asked if a motion to submit comments as submitted was necessary.

Ms. Baker stated DHR requested comments be submitted to them.

Ms. Gossett stated these were just the ARB recommendations to the State.

Ms. Baker stated she would send a courtesy copy to Mr. Schools and Mr. White.

Mr. Eakin made a motion to forward the comments for submission.

Ms. Gossett seconded the motion.

The motion passed 4 – 0 (Mrs. Bailey, Mr. Dodgen and Mr. Osborn were absent).

Ms. Baker confirmed that she should send comments with support for the nomination.

All ARB members agreed.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**2. Aquia Church Lighting**

Mr. Range stated he received a note that the County would not financially support any adjustment to the lights and asked that the item be removed from the agenda. He stated the ARB had gone above and beyond to show options that could be done and it should be dropped from unfinished business.

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Ms. Baker stated if the Church should come back for any changes or new building it could be made part of the recommendation at that time.

Ms. Gossett stated she would like to thank Mr. Range on behalf of the ARB for his work on the lighting issue and for submitting a letter to the Board of Supervisors expressing the ARB concerns on the outcome.

**STAFF UPDATE**

Ms. Baker stated she did not have any specific updates.

Mr. Eakin asked if there were any updates on the Counting House.

Ms. Baker stated the property was transferred to the purchasers about six months ago and currently there were no new updates.

Mr. Range stated the Barnes House seemed to be coming along nicely. It looked as if the foundation, siding and chimney were done. He also stated the Yankees in Falmouth turnout was very good.

**REPORTS BY ARB MEMBERS**

No reports.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

February 6, 2017

August 7, 2017

Mr. Range asked if everyone had a chance to review the February 6, 2017 and August 7, 2017 minutes.

Ms. Gossett made a motion to approve the February 6, 2017 and August 7, 2017 minutes.

Ms. McAdams seconded the motion.

The motion passed 4 – 0 (Mrs. Bailey, Mr. Dodgen and Mr. Osborn were absent).

Ms. Baker stated the Historical Commission had been working on a list of county owned properties that they considered endangered to try to include them in the capital improvements program, since the budget cycle was starting. She stated they sent a letter to the County Administrator and copied the Board of Supervisors indicating the properties and some recommendations. She stated they prioritized the slave quarters at Lake Mooney based on the timeframe of the current stabilization. She stated she would send a copy to the members for review.

Mr. Range asked why the Hartwood area was not included in the Historic district.

Ms. Gossett stated she knew the church was in a district but was not sure of the other buildings.

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Ms. Baker stated she did not believe they were, but a lot of that area was under a conservation easement. It was Stuart Jones' home place.

Mr. Range asked about an old covered bridge.

Ms. Baker stated Berea Church Road had a covered bridge on private property. She stated it was moved there.

Mr. Range stated the January 2018 meeting would be held January 8, 2018 and September 2018 would be held September 10, 2018.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Eakin made a motion to adjourn.

Ms. Gossett seconded the motion.

The motion passed 4 – 0 (Mrs. Bailey, Mr. Dodgen and Mr. Osborn were absent).

With no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 7:02 p.m.