

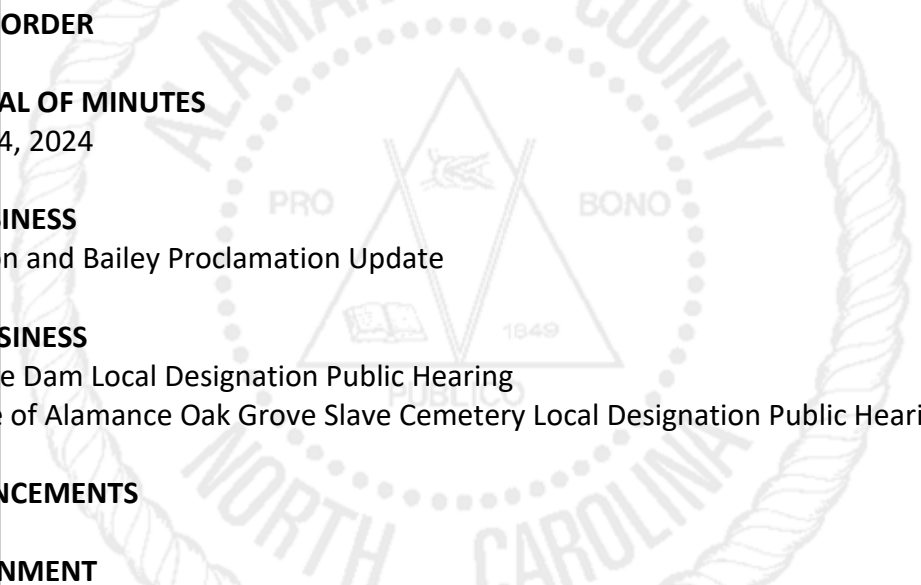
Alamance County Historic Properties Commission

Tuesday, June 11, 2024

6 PM, Commissioners' Meeting Room

Virtual- <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCdav77c1nQtsM1tnx5rr0yQ>

AGENDA

- 
- I. CALL TO ORDER**
 - II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**
 1. May 14, 2024
 - III. OLD BUSINESS**
 1. Braxton and Bailey Proclamation Update
 - IV. NEW BUSINESS**
 1. Guthrie Dam Local Designation Public Hearing
 2. Village of Alamance Oak Grove Slave Cemetery Local Designation Public Hearing
 - V. ANNOUNCEMENTS**
 - VI. ADJOURNMENT**

Alamance County Historic Properties Commission

Tuesday, May 14, 2024

6 PM, Commissioners' Meeting Room

Virtual- <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCdav77c1nQtsM1tnx5rr0yQ>

MINUTES

Members Present

Rodney Cheek
Katherine Hadley
Laurie Smith
John Greeson
Megan Privett
Emily White
Chris Copsey
Arnetta Girardeau (via Zoom)

Members Absent

Chris Wells
Aric Geda
Gale Pettiford

Staff Present

Matthew Hoagland, *Planning Director*
Ian Shannon, *Planner II*

I. CALL TO ORDER

Called to order at 6:05 PM.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. April 9, 2024

A typo in part IV was pointed out, should read "they could"

Motion to approve as amended: John Greeson

Second: Chris Copsey

Vote: Unanimous

III. OLD BUSINESS

Rodney proposed discussing the slave cemetery first.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

1. Copland Mill National Register Report

Discussion occurs after voting on the slave cemetery recommendation.

Matthew gave an overview of the property and told the commission that there were 2 parcels and 1 building that were in the county's jurisdiction and had to be reviewed. The rest of the property up for consideration was in Burlington's jurisdiction. Matthew read off a description of the building, the water plant for the mill, while Ian brought it up on Google Maps for the commission to have a visual. Matthew told the commission that they would need to officially enter a public hearing and entertain any public comment. He also outlined the overall process and told the commission that both they and the Board of Commissioners were required to provide comment back by June 12th otherwise the state would assume both approved. There was some brief discussion on the property and the commission and the consensus was to approve.

Motion to enter a public hearing to endorse the nomination: Katherine Hadley

Second: John Greeson

Vote: Unanimous

Rodney asks for any public comment, there is none.

Motion to approve: Chris Copsy

Second: John Greeson

Vote: Unanimous

Rodney reads off the agreement and signs the decision to approve.

Motion to close the hearing: John Greeson

second: Laurie Smith

Vote: Unanimous

2. Village of Alamance Oak Grove Slave Cemetery Local Designation Report

Matthew gave a brief overview of the timeline of the project from the Village of Alamance looking for information from county staff to them preparing a report on the cemetery. He also gave the commission a brief overview of the property which is a cemetery for the slaves from E. M. Holt's plantation. There were supposedly around 40 individuals buried there, but there were only 14 identifiable grave sites from radar testing. He also read off comments from the state which greatly encouraged designation. Matthew

then introduced Village of Alamance Town Administrator Nick Farmerie, Village of Alamance Mayor Don Tichy, and Director of the Alamance County Historical Museum Dr. Bill Vincent.

Nick gave more information to the commission from their report. He also listed off some of the accomplishments from the descendants of the slaves buried there including establishing the Springdale A.M.E. Church, establishing one of the first schools to train African American teachers, helping with the development of the original Alamance Plaid design, and being appointed as the county's first African American sheriff. He said that the property was currently owned by the HOA and that the HOA had been preserving the land so far. There were some proposals for the Village to officially take ownership and responsibility of the land but those had been tabled based on a proposed parking lot design. Due to that, the Village was just now going to look into putting a historic marker sign on the property.

Megan asked about the accessibility of the site. Nick said that it was not on private property in the subdivision and had frontage along Yorkshire Drive. Chris asked how long it was known to be a cemetery and Nick it was known for a while but not identified until around phase 3 of the subdivision when a buffer area was put around it. Rodney asked how the site would be maintained if the HOA stopped functioning or ownership changes. Both Nick and Don assured the commission that the Village would have agreements with contractors for maintenance and that there would be relatively little to no impact to their budget in maintaining this. Don added that he lived in the neighborhood and that there had been no objections from any neighbors on the existence or maintenance of the cemetery. He told the commission that they actually had to grant a variance for their building setback requirements in order for a neighbor to move his property line further away from the cemetery. He said that he personally had known about the site for 18 years.

Megan asked about any other building associated with the E. M. Holt property during the time. Dr. Vincent told the commission that the museum itself is located on a property that was the residence of the Holt family in 1790. He added that the museum is surrounded by 7 acres of land and that there were a number of buildings on the property from a granary to a barn to the Holt family's cemetery. He told the commission that they were able to give an estimate on the number of slaves buried due to the records they had at the museum. He added that the museum property is on the National Register of Historic Places.

Emily asked about the possibility of HOA fees going up in order to maintain this. Don answered saying that the HOA has already been maintaining it but the fee would be negligible to those living in the neighborhood. It would also be well within the Village's current budget to maintain it. Nick added that there is a sewer easement at the edge of the cemetery but it does not overlap the cemetery. Rodney raised some concern over contracted workers maintaining the area but Nick said that they have not had any real issues with their current contracts. Don added that whether or not the Village officially takes ownership he would see that this is maintained one way or another.

Move to accept and recommend to the Board of Commissioners: John Greeson
Second: Emily White

Vote: Unanimous

Discussion returns to Copland Mills.

3. Formation of an Alamance America 250 Subcommittee

Arnetta gave the commission some information and some background to her interest in this. She said that her love of history came from celebrating the bicentennial, and she wanted to make sure that history was still alive today 50 years later. She said that different county committees were being created to help organize and celebrate as a part of this and it would make sense for Alamance to have one as well. She told the commission that she envisioned bringing all kinds of different groups together to coordinate. She didn't know of a lot of other historical organizations but she was sure there were other groups in Alamance that had similar ideas.

Chris asked how the commission could set something like this up and Rodney said they could ask who would want to serve on a subcommittee as well as reach out to other local groups. Arnetta said that she would like to see 4 people on the subcommittee. Katherine asked about the Harvey Newlin barns and if those could be involved in some way. Arnetta said that there were some opportunities for local grants and other support for counties. Rodney asked who all would like to serve on the subcommittee and asked for an official motion to form it.

Motion to create a subcommittee to assist Arnetta with America 250 and report back to the HPC with information or for assistance: Katherine Hadley
Second: Emily White

The subcommittee will consist of: Rodney Cheek, Chris Copsey, John Greeson, Emily White, Megan Privet, Katherine Hadley, and Arnetta Girardeau

Vote: Unanimous

V. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Alamance County

HISTORIC PROPERTIES COMMISSION
124 W. Elm Street
Graham, North Carolina 27253
Tel. (336) 570-4053

Matthew tells the commission that in looking back through state statutes he discovered that there actually need to be public hearings for local landmark designations, which would include advertising in the newspaper and notifying neighboring property owners. He said that staff would prepare everything to hold public hearings for both Guthrie Dam and the Oak Grove Slave Cemetery during the next meeting.

Katherine asked about the Braxton and Bailey markers and if there was any update on that. Rodney told her that he would reack back out to Aric and see if he could figure out where everything was in the process.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn: Emily White

Second: John Greeson

Vote: Unanimous

Adjourned at 7:15 PM.

