

The Historic Greenfield Preservation Advisory Council of Botetourt County

Minutes for Tuesday January 17, 2023

Greenfield Education Center, Auditorium at 3:00 p.m.

Call to order - Council chair Jim Johnston called this meeting to order at 3:05 PM and welcomed everyone present. Other members in attendance were Danny Kyle, Keith McMurry, Wendy Warren, Curtis Brown, Beth Pappas, Edward Preston, Roblyn Brand (on MS Teams), Will Dibling, and Cheryl Sullivan Willis.

County staff in attendance were County Supervisor Steve Clinton, Jon Lanford, Assistant County Administrator and Tiffany Bradbury, Public Relations Director.

Members unable to attend: Eugene Journiette, Lynne Bolton, and Ann Morgan.

Special guests present: Anna Lawson.

Jim thanked everyone for their service. He appreciated everyone's patience, as Council's renovation projects are moving along very slowly. Members also thanked Jim for his service as Council chair.

Minutes – Wendy Warren emailed the draft meeting minutes in advance of this meeting. Beth Pappas made a motion to approve the December 6 meeting minutes. Edward Preston seconded. All approved by voice vote consensus.

Staff Update – Jon Lanford had a prior commitment and would show up later in the meeting. Jim Johnston read Jon's report: County maintenance ordered new Tyvek wrap for the slave quarters building and waiting for delivery. He asked other maintenance staff to look at other material options, since the Tyvek was delayed. He asked that Council keep County Maintenance Director Steve Richards in their thoughts and prayers as he developed a significant yet undisclosed illness in mid-December. He is improving, but remains hospitalized in Richmond.

Supervisor's Report – Supervisor Steve Clinton did not have much to report on.

Restoration of Summer Kitchen – Steve said Council needs to focus all its time and energy on restoring the Summer Kitchen. It has a massive fireplace and chimney. Dendrochronology dates the logs to 1842. The cantilevered overhang is iconic and unique. The kitchen was downstairs, and the family quarters were upstairs.

Beth Pappas said the public wants to see something done. Who will fix the kitchen? We now have the funds. Jon called the contractor that Beth recommended back in the fall, but he has yet to make a site visit. County funds budgeted for Historic Greenfield now total approx. \$230,000. Some contractors don't want to do work for the County because of the licensing and insurance requirements.

The County will still match donations made to Historic Greenfield.

The County RFP process will attract larger construction companies that will have better access to hiring out subcontractors to do the masonry work.

Has HistoriCorps been contacted? Council contacted them back in 2019.

New construction diagrams will need to be drawn up again for the kitchen.

Historic Greenfield Video Presentation – Danny Kyle said the You Tube link is better to watch the video. A new HD version will be available to watch soon. It is still be reviewed by the County attorney.

Jim said the video was perfect.

Greenfield Booklet – Danny and Elaine Kyle made a 22-page handout in October 2019 and are revising it to distribute to local industries. They will add more content and photos.

Jim and Danny will meet with Tiffany Bradbury on January 19 to finalize the booklet and determine the size, production and quantity. Cost of the books will be emailed out, and Council can vote by email.

Grants Committee – Roblyn Brand met with Jim Johnston, Keith McMurry, Steve Clinton and Alison Blanton. Alison was hired to help them submit a letter of intent (LOI) to the African American Cultural Heritage Action Fund.

They requested \$70,000 for project planning of all three log structures for educational and heritage purposes. The letter included decisions to develop fund and implementation strategies. It will be a feasible plan to develop fundraising strategies to maximize the County's funding commitments.

The estimate in the Hill Studio Master Plan are now out of date, as construction costs have increased.

Alison wrote the LOI on the foundation that Steve started a few years ago.

AECOM presented an estimate of \$70,000.

A special member of the National Trust for Historic Preservation called Jim after the LOI was submitted and said they would lobby internally to get us to the next step of the application process. The grant committee will hear back in early April if they will be allowed to move forward and fill out the full grant application.

Alison's grant writing services will cost about \$750 - \$1,000.

The Virginia Department of Historic Resources has a \$150,000 grant opportunity Council can apply for. The odds are better that Council can get that grant as less people will apply for it.

Here is the AACHAF letter of intent (double click to open pdf file):



Greenfield AACHAF LOI Dec. 2022 (1).pdf

Community Development Committee - Jim Johnston reported for Ann Morgan. They are in a wait and see status, as they are waiting for the video and booklet to be completed before they can approach businesses for support. The committee feels very positive about their plans.

Upcoming Events – Steve Clinton asked Council if it had any upcoming plans for Black History Month. Tiffany said that WDBJ-7 is looking for a good story connected to Black History Month.

Jim will email the NCPTT and find out when their report will be available.

One idea would be to invite members of the community to gather and share stories. Beth and Roblyn suggested the Botetourt History Museum as a good place to meet. The following date was selected to hold this event: Sunday February 19 from 2:00 – 4:00 pm. People can share stories, pictures, scrapbooks, family history, etc. at this event.

Wendy shared a flyer promoting a “Finding Your Roots” African American genealogy workshop at the Gainsboro Library on Saturday February 11. It will be hosted by members of the Colonel William Preston DAR Chapter, and feature nationally renowned

African American genealogist, Ruth D. Hunt. Wendy will email the flyer to the Council soon.

Old/New Business – Lynne Bolton, representative of Historic Fincastle Inc., would like to retire from the Council. Council has until the end of this year to find her replacement.

Channel 7 aired the story about the NCPTT back in December. Here is the link to that story: [WDBJ-7 Interview from December 6, 2022](#)

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:35 PM. The next meeting will be held on Tuesday February 21 at 3:00 PM at the Greenfield Training Center.

Respectfully submitted by,
Wendy H. Warren
Secretary, Historic Greenfield Preservation Advisory Council