

Meeting Minutes
The Historic Greenfield Preservation Council of Botetourt County
Wednesday January 26, 2022 at 3:00 P.M.
Hybrid Meeting on MS Teams at Greenfield Education Training Center, Room 229

Present: In-person: Steve Clinton, Jon Lanford, Jim Johnston, Danny Kyle, Beth Pappas, Wendy Warren and guest, Leanna Scachetti of WDBJ-7. On MS Teams: Will Dibling, Edward Preston, Lynne Bolton, Roblyn Brand, Curtis Brown, Cheryl Sullivan-Willis and Tiffany Bradbury.

Call to order – Council vice chair Jim Johnston called this hybrid meeting to order at 3:03 p.m. Jim welcomed everyone and introduced Leanna Scachetti of WDBJ-7, who is working on a story about Greenfield as part of Black History Month, to be aired sometime in February.

Roll Call / Approval of Minutes – Secretary Wendy Warren took roll call. She emailed out the draft December 16 meeting minutes for everyone to review. A MOTION was made by Edward Preston to accept the December 16 minutes as written and was SECONDED by Beth Pappas. All APPROVED by voice vote consensus.

Staff Update – Assistant County Administrator Jon Lanford reported that a check was written to AECOM for its design work, leaving a balance of about \$137,700.

Bids for the chimney restoration were due last Wednesday. Six firms made inquiries about the project but did not bid on it. Two of the inquiries were from masons, who said they could not bid on the project because of timing issues - challenges with labor, jobs elsewhere and unable to complete the project in the preferred time frame.

Jon will revise the bid to make the project more attractive. Steve Clinton recommended that it be re-advertised, and to remove the criteria to make the chimney operable to make the project less complicated and less expensive.

No time frame was stated in the bid. One firm said they would place a bid if the request had come out in March, because they will have more labor available then.

This project would be an attractive job to have in a company portfolio. Jon will advertise the request for proposals again in March and request bids for both a working and non-working chimney.

WDBJ-7 News Story About Greenfield: Jim reported that Leanna Scachetti would like to meet and interview anyone from the Council next Wednesday February 2 at 10:00 a.m. at the Historic Greenfield gravel parking lot. Several members said they would go.

Supervisor's Report – Steve Clinton reported that Mike Pulice succeeded in getting the two slave buildings listed as Virginia Historic Landmarks on December 9. All three buildings at Historic Greenfield now share that same designation. Many grants require

that buildings be designated historical landmarks, so this is very significant, and good publicity too.

Steve submitted a letter of intent to the African American Cultural Heritage Action Fund and applied for \$100,000. This is the fourth time he has submitted this grant and is hopeful that this one will succeed. He specifically applied for funding towards the chimney restoration and submitted construction details provided by AECOM. He should receive a reply sometime in March if they will accept the LOI or not.

Jim thanked Steve, Jon, Wendy and other County staff for helping with the LOI.

Steve will approach the Board of Supervisors in late February and seek approval for a line item budget to provide annual funding for Historic Greenfield.

Steve made a short presentation on the draft bylaws and opened up the floor for discussion.

Will Dibling noticed an inconsistency in this organization's name in the first paragraph of each document. Council decided to remove the word "leadership" from the draft bylaws.

The Council will now be called *The Historic Greenfield Preservation Council of Botetourt County*.

Council will not be a 501(c)(3), but rather a 170(c)(1) as defined by the IRS. Donations for Historic Greenfield will still be tax deductible.

Another correction was found section IV. D (b): *Nominees of the following organizations shall serve an initial term of two years, beginning January 1, 2022 and ending December 31, 2023.*

DAR and *SAR* affiliates are no longer limited to specific chapters, allowing for more regional representation.

New officers will be called Chair, Past Chair and Secretary/Treasurer.

Beth Pappas made a MOTION to accept the bylaws as amended. SECOND was made by Lynne Bolton. All APPROVED by roll call.

Steve made a short presentation on the draft statement of organization and opened up the floor for discussion.

Lynne Bolton made a MOTION to accept the statement of organization as written. SECOND was made by Cheryl Sullivan Willis. All APPROVED by roll call.

Now that Council has approved the draft bylaws and statement of organization, Steve will present them to the Board of Supervisors meeting in late February for their approval.

Council Elections – Jim Johnston opened up the floor for nominations to fill Chair, Past Chair and Secretary/Treasurer positions for 2022.

Beth Pappas made a MOTION to nominate Jim Johnston to serve as Chair. SECOND was made by Danny Kyle. All APPROVED by roll call.

Cheryl Sullivan-Willis made a MOTION to leave the Past Chair position vacant in 2022. SECOND was made by Beth Pappas. All APPROVED by roll call.

Beth Pappas made a MOTION to nominate Wendy Warren as Secretary/Treasurer. SECOND was made by Lynne Bolton. All APPROVED by roll call.

Jim thanked Judy Morris for all she has done for this Council and encouraged members to send her cards of appreciation and well wishes.

Historic Greenfield Video Update – Danny Kyle reported that Ian Kyle is in the final stages of completing the video and sent an updated script to all the speakers involved for accuracy. Once that is approved, Dan Pezzoni will record his narration. The video will be complete in 1-2 weeks.

Legacy Committee – Edward Preston has several candidates to interview and will borrow a digital recorder from the Fincastle Library to do that soon. The committee is still working on questions to ask each candidate.

Fundraising – Beth Pappas has not received any brick orders. Wendy said her DAR chapter sent in an order form before Christmas, and Jon said he would look for it.

Magnolia Plantation and Gardens – Magnolia Plantation and Gardens is an old plantation near Charleston, SC that has been open to the public since 1870 and is the base of operation for Joe McGill, director of the Slave Dwelling Project. Tiffany Bradbury shared photos of the slave quarters and gardens for reference. The slave quarters are saddle back structures and similar to the one at Greenfield.

Will Dibling and his wife Carol had a delightful visit at Magnolia Gardens back in December, and met their friend Nona Hastie, who serves on the board and is one of seven owners of Magnolia Gardens. (Magnolia Gardens has been privately owned for twelve generations.) It was privately owned by the Drayton family in its early years and is self-supported by tour fees.

Will met with Joe McGill, who serves as Director of History and Culture. The slaves at MG were instrumental in growing rice as the main crop and built dams and dykes necessary to grow it.

The slave quarters, built around 1850, were duplexes built for two families each. There are several other cabins onsite that were built in the late 19th and 20th centuries. A slave cemetery is onsite with unmarked grave stones.

Joe has written a book and travelled extensively. He is interested in telling the story of all people who lived on plantations. He visited Greenfield back in 2016 and said that site is important because it has two slave buildings and a slave cemetery onsite.

The gardens at MG are casual, with 150-year old camelias and fifteen species of azaleas. Its board of directors relies heavily on Joe, who states that it is important to retain the word "plantation" in its name.

Joe told Will that he would be available to assist any time and come to Historic Greenfield to assist with an event or program.

Jim thanked Will for his report and said he would like to invite Joe McGill to visit Historic Greenfield. Steve would like to give Will a tour of the preservation site soon.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:29 p.m. The next Council meeting will be on Tuesday February 15 at 3:00 p.m. in the same room.

Respectfully submitted,

Wendy H. Warren, Secretary