

**Meeting Minutes**  
**The Historic Greenfield Preservation Advisory Council of Botetourt County**  
**Tuesday March 15, 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, Tiffany Bradbury, Jim Johnston, Danny Kyle, Beth Pappas, Edward Preston, Curtis Brown, Will Dibling, Roblyn Brand, Wendy Warren, and guest Steven Colwell.

Call to order – Council chair Jim Johnston called this hybrid meeting to order at 3:03 p.m. and welcomed everyone present.

Roll Call / Approval of Minutes – Secretary Wendy Warren took roll call. She emailed out the draft February 15 meeting minutes for everyone to review. A MOTION was made by Beth Pappas to accept those minutes as written and was SECONDED by Lynn Bolton. All APPROVED by voice vote consensus.

Staff Update – Assistant County Administrator Jon Lanford reported that the chimney restoration bid process will open around March 19. He is aware of at least two companies that want to place bids and will give an update at the next meeting.

Past chair Judy Morris passed away after a lengthy illness on February 25. Her family delivered a box of files related to her work with Historic Greenfield. Please let Jim Johnston know if you would like to see the files.

\$775 has been donated to Historic Greenfield in memory of Judy.

Supervisor's Report – Steve Clinton reported that Rupert Cutler received a very nice resolution endorsed by the County Board of Supervisors at its recent meeting on February 22. Steve presented the updated HGPAC bylaws and statement of organization to the board and were approved without any discussion. This will allow HGPAC to be a regularly funded line item on the county budget. A draft budget has been approved for HGPAC to receive \$50,000 in FY2023, but this has not been finalized yet.

Old Berm Along and Past Renfro Creek: Steven Colwell hikes old abandoned mines and railways and noticed an old berm along and past Renfro Creek on the Historic Greenfield site. Did an old railroad line pass through Greenfield?

Danny Kyle said he would be interested in researching this question and help answer it soon. Wendy's husband Stephen is vice president of the N&W Historical Society. She will ask him if he knows of any lines that went through Greenfield.

Danny and Wendy will report their findings at the next Council meeting.

WDBJ-7 News Story for Black History Month – Jim Johnston reported that the news story on WDBJ-7 about Historic Greenfield turned out really well. He thanked Beth Pappas, Cheryl Sullivan-Willis and Curtis Brown for being a part of that interview.

Here is the link to this story that aired on February 24: [Historic Greenfield News Story on WDBJ-7](#)

Tiffany Bradbury learned that the podcast had the most downloads since 2019.

Can Council use the link for promotional purposes? Yes. Tiffany can ask for raw footage if needed.

Jim said the video and podcast have generated a lot of interest and was wondering if Council should conduct a fundraiser event soon.

Historic Greenfield Video Update – Danny Kyle reported that Dan Pizzoni needs assistance in wrapping up his part of the video production. Ian will meet with Dan soon, and hopes to be done by late March.

He will send a link to Council of the entire video once completed.

Former Member Recognition – Jim Johnston would like Council to be consistent in its recognition of former Council members. He asked Danny to investigate the cost of a plaque from AAA Trophy that would be a permanent way to preserve the names of those no longer on the Council and that could be on display in the County administration building.

A resolution of their service should be hand delivered or mailed to them along with a note indicating that their names would be engraved on this new plaque.

A MOTION was made by Lynne Bolton that the HGPAC develop a resolution commemorating the past service of those who used to serve on the Council and to engrave their names on a plaque to be purchased soon. Those names will include: Past Chair David Marcum (2019), Past Chair Judy Morris (2020-21), and past members John Rader (2019), John Bradshaw (2019-2021), and Rupert Cutler (2019-2022). A SECOND was made by Edward Preston. All APPROVED by voice vote consensus.

Jim recommends that members of Greenfield Committees prior to 2019 be included in this endeavor as well. Steve Clinton asked the Board of Supervisors to form the current Council in February 2018. Its first formal meeting was held in November 2018.

Danny and Lynne will take the lead on this commemorative process for former Council members.

Legacy Committee – Edward Preston is working with the County Library to secure a digital voice recorder and has a meeting with the branch manager soon. He needs to

come up with a list of questions to ask members of the Greenfield community about their childhood memories there.

Beth Pappas can give Edward a list of questions he can use.

This committee's goal is to ask questions of the older generation that will provide memories and stories for the younger generation to read.

Fundraising – Beth Pappas has received no brick paver orders since the last meeting.

Garden Tour at Santillane – Beth Pappas is seeking volunteers to help work a Historic Greenfield information table at the Garden Club Tour at Santillane on Saturday April 30 from 10 am - 4 pm. Wendy and two other members from her DAR chapter can help with this. Jim will be in attendance but working the Lewis & Clark Legacy Trail table.

Create a Council Member Search Committee – Jim Johnston would like to add two new members to the Council in 2022. Steve gave a reminder to follow the updated bylaws in the nomination process. The HGPAC can have 8 to 15 members.

Jim, Wendy and Steve will get together before the next meeting to discuss this process. Wendy will email Jim an updated contact list of Council members.

Roanoke Valley Preservation Foundation – Jim Johnston reviewed the RVPF Most Endangered Historic Site application, which has a deadline of March 21. Several County entities have been listed in the past, but Jim wants to make sure it is appropriate for HGPAC to submit this application.

In 2016 the County Board of Supervisors were awarded the RVPF "Bulldozer Award" for moving the two slave structures. The HGPAC has since rectified that issue but needs to be careful not to draw further criticism in its preservation efforts. Would applying for this nomination be a negative or positive thing for the HGPAC?

It was recommended that Jim fill out the application for the Jefferson Gardens, as that is an endangered asset of Historic Greenfield. Jim and Wendy will work together in filling out that application soon.

Old Business – Steve Clinton asked Jon Lanford if he has any new information on building a trail in the preservation area. Jon said no action has been taken yet, but a conversation has begun.

New Business – Lynne Bolton promoted Saturday May 14 as "Step Back into History Day" in Fincastle from 10 am – 2 pm. It is a day of self-guided tours, and local history groups can set up information tables, wear period costumes, and present historic interpretations. If the HGPAC wants to have a table then it will need volunteers to run it.

Edward promoted two books of interest about the first slaves owned by the Col. William Preston family. The first book is called "In the True Blue's Wake" by Daniel B. Thorp (history professor at VT). *True Blue* was the name of a slave ship that brought slaves from Ghana to America 20 years before Smithfield was built. Col. Preston purchased 16 of those slaves for his plantation at Greenfield.

The second book is called "More Than a Fraction" by Kerri Moseley-Hobbs. *Fraction* was a common last name given to slaves, as each one was considered  $\frac{3}{5}$  of a human.

Council should ask the authors to make a presentation on their books.

Wendy announced that her chapter will be hosting a tour at the Clay Street House and Monterey Slave Quarters at Roanoke College on Saturday May 14 from 11 – 1. She will send a flyer to Council members soon. Steve and Jim would both like to attend.

Supervisor Billy Martin invited Steve Clinton to make a presentation soon to a Total Action for Progress (TAP) meeting about Historic Greenfield and show the power point presentation used at the February Board of Supervisors meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:32 p.m. The next Council meeting will be on Tuesday April 19 at 3:00 p.m. in the same room.

Respectfully submitted,

Wendy H. Warren, Secretary