

Botetourt County Citizen Commission for Preservation of Historical Properties
Minutes
June 15, 2023

1. Chair Steve Clinton called the meeting to order at 3:20 pm at Greenfield Administrative Building with members present:

Steve Clinton, Ed McCoy, Charles Alphin, Mary Bess Smith, Rodney Spickard and Gary Larrowe (joined at 3:35pm)

Guests included Sarah Rodgers, Botetourt County Library, Rena Worthen, Anne Layman and))) Wiley.

2. Rodney Spickard made a motion and Steve Clinton seconded to accept the minutes from the April 20, 2023 meeting. The motion passed unanimously
3. A-B. Chairman Clinton discussed continuing the concept of "Define, Identify, Approach, Codify and Preserve" historic properties and sites, and how the BCCC might tackle this concept. The discussion included how publicity about the programs might be developed through county resources, how to approach property owners and how the BCCC might recommend possible historic property certification by the county.
4. Chairman Clinton reported work continues with Roanoke Cement Company on the McDonald Sr. house. He said a more detailed report may be necessary before moving forward with preservation efforts.

Chairman Clinton reported he has been in contact with Douglas Reed of Historic Structures Consultants, and Reed offered a proposal to evaluate the McDonald Sr. house, and two other log structures. His evaluation will be paid by the county and not the commission. His proposal is an attachment to these minutes. No action was needed by the BCCC.

5. A. Chairman Clinton reported that Mike Pulice will be the guest speaker at the BCCC's July meeting. He was not available to the June meeting.

B. Mary Bess Smith provided the meeting with her proposed definition of "Historic" that will be used by the BCCC. The proposed definition is the same definition used by the National Register of Historic Places. After discussion about the proposed definition, Mary Bess Smith made a motion to adopt the definition and criteria used by the National Register of Historic Places as the baseline definition for "Historic" to be used by the BCCC. Steve Clinton seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. The definition and criteria are included as an addendum to these minutes.

C. Rodney Spickard presented a short list of properties that the BCCC should be considered for historic preservation, and recommended Aspen Hill in Fincastle be added to the list. He also referenced the lists of properties included in the Architectural Survey of Botetourt County done by Hill Studios, P.C. for Botetourt County in 2008.

D. BCCC members discussed how to get and keep the BCCC's work in front of the public. Chair Clinton and Sarah Rodgers agreed to work on a brochure that could be

used to share with the public. There was also discussion about other possible ways to publicize the BCCC's work.

New Business:

6. A. Botetourt sites on the 2023 "Endangered Sites" list done by the Roanoke Valley Preservation Foundation was discussed. Chairman Clinton presented a handout with the RVPF 2023 sites. There was discussion about the struggles of dealing with property owners who have potential historic properties falling into disrepair. Finances, lack of interest and other reasons may be the challenge for those property owners. Discussion about the Endangered Sites list offered that the list may be for education rather than for trying to embarrass the property owner into action.

B. Sarah Rodgers reported that Mike Pulice will be doing a program on historic preservation in October. She said he could also do a specialized program.

C. Ed McCoy reviewed the Hill Studios, P.C. Architectural Survey of Botetourt County, and the recommendations the study offers that the BCCC could follow. Chairman Clinton said the survey could be used as a template for the BCCC for "what to do next." He noted the survey recommendations give the BCCC goals to aspire to.

Clinton asked, "Who gets these things done?" There was discussion turning to the county for things like tax incentives for restoring or preserving historic property, historic certification, etc., which will take funding.

Gary Larrowe said if recommendations come from the BCCC to the Board of Supervisors, it gives a reason for the BOS to look into these items. There was discussion about iron furnaces, the JR&K Canal sites and other multiple properties and how documentation for those sites in the county fall under NRHP registration.

D. Discussion was held about how to publicize the BCCC mission and get property owners to consider the programs that could preserve historic properties. After discussion, the consensus was to put together a brochure first that could be available at Mike Pulice's program in October. The BCCC then discussed a program to introduce the BCCC to the public with a target date of November 14-16 that could involve Rev. Robert McGray and his book about Botetourt churches, Ed McCoy and Historical Society book commemorating the county's 250th anniversary and Judge Bo Trumbo's video about Looney's Ferry and its importance to the migration into Botetourt, south and west.

E. Chairman Clinton charged each BCCC member with looking over the Hill Study comprehensive list of possible historic properties and returning for the July meeting with a "top 20 to 25 list" of properties that are the most interesting, the most in need of preservation and/or the most likely to get public attention.

7. Chairman Clinton noted the next meeting will be Thursday, July 20, 2023 at 3 pm at Greenfield Center.
8. Chairman Clinton adjourned the meeting.