

Meeting Minutes
The Historic Greenfield Preservation Advisory Council of Botetourt County
Tuesday June 21, 2022 at 3:00 P.M.
Hybrid Meeting on MS Teams at Greenfield Education Training Center, Room 229

Present: In-person: Steve Clinton, Jim Johnston, Danny Kyle, Beth Pappas, Roblyn Brand, Lynne Bolton, Edward Preston, Keith McMurry, Ann Morgan, Jon Lanford, Tiffany Bradbury and Wendy Warren.

On MS Teams: Will Dibling and Curtis Brown

Call to order – Council chair Jim Johnston called this hybrid meeting to order at 3:01 p.m. and welcomed everyone present.

Approval of Minutes – Secretary Wendy Warren emailed out the draft May 17 meeting minutes for everyone to review. After one correction was made, Lynne Bolton made a MOTION to accept those minutes as corrected and was SECONDED by Edward Preston. All APPROVED by voice vote consensus.

Staff Update: Jon Lanford thanked Ricky Dowdy for providing excellent maintenance on the preservation site (tree removal, mowing, etc.).

Jon is working on a revised RFP for bids on restoring the chimney and will send it to a list of contractors that Mike Pulice provided as well as a public contractor list. He said that public contracting requirements involve too much work for masons.

Supervisor's Report – Steve Clinton reported that Ann Morgan and Keith McMurry are now official members of the HGPAC, their nominations having been approved at the last Supervisors meeting.

Back in April Steve toured the McDonald House (ca. late 18th century) that sits on county property owned by Roanoke Cement. Mike Pulice was there and brought with him the curator of Poplar Forest (Al Anderson) to look at the building as well. It is a two-story log structure with similarities to the Summer Kitchen. Anderson wants to take an in depth look at the structure and wrap it in Tyvek for protection. Roanoke Cement will likely spend about \$47,000 to stabilize it.

Former Member Recognition – Lynne Bolton researched the cost of a 12" x 18" walnut plaque with 39 name plates from All Star Impressions on Townside Road in Roanoke. It will cost approx. \$472, which includes the cost of engraving each brass plate. The bill can be sent to the county for payment.

Keith McMurry made a MOTION to approve the design and amount of the plaque and was SECONDED by Roblyn Brand. All APPROVED by voice vote consensus.

A MOTION was also made by Lynne Bolton to recognize the names of both current and prior members of the HGPAC on the plaque and was SECONDED by Keith McMurry. Wendy will send Lynne and Jim a list of names soon.

Historic Greenfield Video – Danny Kyle thanked Jon Lanford and Kristen Perdue for converting the draft video into a private YouTube channel so only Council members could view it. The video is now complete, and the next thing Ian will need to do is secure it with copy right protection, which could cost as little as \$35.

Discussion ensued about how to copy right the video, who should do it and how much it would cost. A copy right will protect the Council from someone making and selling copies of the video. Will Dibling suggested that a state copy right is more than adequate and lower in cost. He said that Botetourt County should apply for the copy right and asked if the County has legal status (that it cannot sue or be sued). Steve and Jon will talk to the County attorney about this and table this discussion for the next meeting.

Roblyn reminded members that the Buchanan Theatre would like to host the opening night of the video for only \$75 (preferably on a Thursday night). Council could charge admission and make some money from the showing.

Legacy Committee – Edward Preston has plenty of names of people to interview but has not conducted any yet, as he is not sure what equipment to use for the recording.

Tiffany Bradbury mentioned the Botetourt County Storyteller initiative, which uses both audio and video when conducting interviews. Edward will work with Tiffany in this project.

Brick Pavers Fundraiser – Beth Pappas has not received any new orders.

Trex – Beth Pappas signed up the Botetourt DAR Chapter to weigh and deliver to Food Lion all the soft plastic that is stored at Chery Sullivan Willis's beauty salon.

Tiffany posted a story about Trex on the Historic Greenfield Website and FaceBook page.

SAR Preston Memorial Dedication on June 11 – Will Dibling reported that the Memorial Dedication was a huge success as demonstrated by 77 registrants and media coverage from the Roanoke Times, Fincastle Herald and WDBJ. As representative of the Fincastle Resolutions Chapter, Sons of the American Revolution, he expressed the Chapter's appreciation to some of those who made the event so successful.

The Memorial event was initiated at the request of Bruce Meyer, President, Virginia SAR. Acting at the request of President Meyer, a Memorial Organizing Committee consisting of Dr. Rupert Cutler, Chair, John Bradshaw, Wendy Warren, Will Dibling, Tiffany Bradbury, and Elmer Hodge was created. Under the outstanding leadership of Dr. Cutler, no detail was overlooked in planning for the event.

The event could not have been so successful without the full support and contribution of time and talent from Botetourt County. Appreciation goes to Steve Clinton, Supervisor, Gary Larrowe, County Administrator, Jon Lanford, Tiffany Bradbury and Ricky Dowdy. Tiffany's work was integral in the extensive media coverage enjoyed by the Dedication.

The Daughters of the American Revolution should be recognized in stepping forward to support this patriotic and educational event. Special recognition is due to LeAnn Turbyfill, State Regent, Virginia DAR, Jeanne Dooley, Director-Elect, District VII, Virginia DAR, Wendy Warren, Regent, Col. William Preston Chapter, NSDAR, Ann Peterson and other DAR members who worked registration and refreshment tables.

The Preston Memorial Dedication benefitted by the unanimous support of the Greenfield Council. Grateful appreciation goes to those members who led walking tours, staffed registration tables and provided information packets to attendees.

The William Preston Dedication has raised the profile of Greenfield and the historic role of Botetourt County in the development of our country. It is impossible to name all who contributed to the success of this event, and Will apologized if any other names were omitted who should have been recognized.

Will also gave a word of thanks to Steve and Danny for leading him on a private tour of the HG preservation site.

Jim Johnston spoke to many people at the event. He said 18 people attended the tour and that it went very well. It was led by him, Cheryl, Edward, Danny, Roblyn, Keith. The participants were full of enthusiasm and asked lots of questions.

Grants – Roblyn Brand is well acquainted with Sonja Ingram of Preservation Virginia and spoke with her about national, state and local grant opportunities for HG.

Home Depot and Lowes will give grants to purchase construction supplies.

Council must be a member of the National Trust for Historic Preservation to successfully apply for grants. Council joined in 2021 and needs to renew its membership annually. Jon confirmed that Botetourt County is an active member.

A question arose asking if Botetourt County is a "certified local government" with the Department of Historic Places? Jon confirmed that it is not a CLG and cannot qualify for a CLG grant. CLG is a "red tape" project, worth looking into, and that Steve would want to investigate this further.

Steve has submitted letters of intent over the last 4 years to qualify HG for making application to the African American Cultural Heritage Action Fund of the National Trust but has not succeeded yet. He will try again in 2023.

There is also a Virginia Black Indigenous Preservation Fund we might be able to apply for, but Roblyn is waiting to get more information about that. She has an extensive list of grant opportunities from Preservation Virginia and will send Sonja's notes to Steve.

Roblyn, Jim, Steve, and Keith will form a new grants committee.

New Business – Wendy Warren would like to conduct a DAR gravestone cleaning at the Preston and Gish Cemeteries. Back in April Tom Klatka gave a presentation to Wendy's DAR Chapter about several local graveyards and suggested that her chapter members clean the stones at Greenfield. Wendy will reach out to Tom and see if he (or someone he could recommend) would be available to help her with that project in October.

David Marcum sent Wendy photos from his trip to Berkley Plantation in Charles City, VA, and birthplace of Benjamin Harrison (signer of Declaration of Independence and governor of Virginia). There are many well preserved slave buildings there. Wendy will share these photos when she emails out these meeting minutes.

What is Council's next plan? Should it shift its focus and restore the Farm Manager's House? Does it need a change in course? Which building will require the least amount to money to restore? Probably the Farm Manager's House. A suggestion was made to ask Hill Studio to identify what will need to be done.

The drive from the County administration building to the preservation site dangerous. Can County create a cut through? VDOT will need to be consulted about this.

Danny would like to thank Ricky Dowdy for all maintenance work done on the property. Ricky found a 125-year-old iron and a couple of mason jars while clearing brush.

Steve said the Council is in a good position: the County has renewed joint interest in all things historic (ie. Its support of the \$6M Botetourt County Historical Society building). The local SAR injected new interest for County history. Council is in a good position to get support and should not be timid to ask for help.

Jim asked Steve to please continue leading this Council in a direction it should take.

Three roof panels if facing the right side of the slave quarters are loose and need to be secured.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:57 p.m. The next Council meeting will be on Tuesday July 19 at 3:00 p.m. in the same room.

Respectfully submitted,

Wendy H. Warren, Secretary