

Botetourt County Citizens Commission for the Preservation of Historical Properties
Minutes
June 20, 2023

1. Chair Steve Clinton called the meeting to order at 3 p.m.
2. Members present were Steve Clinton, John Williamson, Rodney Spickard, Charles Alphin, Mary Bess Smith and Ed McCoy. Gary Larrowe joined the meeting at 3:15 p.m. Others present were Sarah Rodgers, Carolyn Wiley, Ann Layman, Rena Worthen and Mike Pulice with the Virginia Department of Historic Resources regional office.
3. Charles Alphin made a motion to approve the minutes from the June 15, 2023 meeting, seconded by Mary Bess Smith. The minutes were approved unanimously.
4. a.. Chair Clinton presented a list of documents that the BCCC could use as the foundation for a growing list of reference materials. Those include the 2008 Hill Studios Architectural Review, the definition of Historic from the IAW National Trust for Historic Places, a target properties list that is a work in progress and the 1988 Gibson Worsham Recon Study.

Mike Pulice offered that the Virginia Department of Historic Resources also has a Map Viewer link that identifies potential historic properties that is much more comprehensive than the Hill Studios study. He said the VHR archivist can provide information about any historic properties research back to 1958, noting that any information about a property is on the Map Viewer. A license to access everything available can be purchased by the BCCC through the Virginia Cultrual Information Database. He recommended contacting VHR archivist Quatro Hubbard in Richmond.

Rodney Spickard and Ed McCoy were assigned to look into the DHR licensing and report back to the BCCC at its September meeting.

B. As part of the effort to publicize the BCCC's work, there will be a program November 14 at Greenfield to introduce the BCCC to the public. Mike Pulice is doing a Historic Preservation program October 14 at the Fincastle Library,

The November 14 program is in the planning stages. The BCCC will invite members of the Botetourt County Historical Society, Historic Fincastle Inc., the Greenfield preservation group Town Councils, the Board of Supervisors and others to the event. A name for the event is needed.

C. Chair Clinton proposed adding an item to the Agenda, which the BCCC members agreed to. Clinton ask the BCCC to consider discussing and establishing a Public Communications Protocol at the September meeting.

5. A. Guest speaker Mike Pulice gave a comprehensive overview of how the DHR may assist with historic preservation. He cautioned the BCCC that its approved definition of “Historic” to identify what are historic properties in Botetourt County “is a high bar.” After discussion about the definition, Mary Bess Smith suggested the BCCC do some editing on its definition. She made a motion to revisit the BCCC’s definition with Mike Pulice’s help, John Williamson seconded, and the motion passed unanimously. Mike Pulice went on to discuss tax credits for commercial property, current and possibly eligible historic districts in the county. He said Historic District designations would “provide the most bang for the buck.” He suggested Eagle Rock, Troutville and Glen Wilton as possible eligible areas for designation as Historic Districts.

B. Chair Clinton presented a proposal that the BCCC authorize the Brian McDonald Sr. House be added to a Historic Building Assessment being done by AECOM for historic structures that were part of the Greenfield Plantation. The evaluation for the McDonald Sr. House that sits on Roanoke Cement Co. property will determine the condition of the house, the original construction, the house’s defining features and whether it is feasible to relocate the house to Greenfield. The added cost for adding the McDonald Sr. house to the Assessment is \$8,080.

After confirming with Gary Larowe that funds are available for the added assessment, John Williamson made a motion to authorize that the McDonald Sr. House be added to the AECOM contract and that the recommendation be presented to the Board of Supervisors for approval. Ed McCoy seconded the motion. Steve Clinton noted he was abstaining from the BCCC vote. The vote passed unanimously with Clinton abstaining. The BCCC’s request for including the McDonald Sr. House in the Assessment also had to be approved by the Greenfield Preservation Advisory Council.

6. The meeting was adjourned at 5:05 p.m.