

## **The Historic Greenfield Preservation Advisory Council of Botetourt County**

Minutes for Tuesday September 20, 2022

Greenfield Education Center, Room 229 at 3:00 p.m.

**Call to order** at 3:03 p.m. – Jim Johnston called this meeting to order and welcomed everyone present, including special guests Alison Blanton and Kate Gutshall from Hill Studio, and John Wissinger from AECOM.

**Roll Call** – Council secretary Wendy Warren took the roll call.

Present: Steve Clinton, Jim Johnston, Will Dibling, Danny Kyle, Keith McMurry, Cheryl Sullivan-Willis, Wendy Warren, Jon Lanford, Tiffany Bradbury.

On MS Teams: Roblyn Brand, Curtis Brown and Eugene Journiette

Unable to attend: Beth Pappas, Edward Preston, Lynne Bolton, Ann Morgan

Guests: Alison Blanton and Kate Gutshall from Hill Studio, and John Wissinger from AECOM.

**Minutes** - Wendy Warren emailed out the draft meeting minutes in advance of this meeting. Will Dibling made a motion to approve the August 16 meeting minutes, and Keith McMurry seconded. All approved by voice vote consensus.

**Staff update** – Jon Lanford reported that the county attorney has reviewed the guidelines for video copyright and trademark protection and advises the Council to purchase both for the Historic Greenfield video produced by Ian Kyle. Copyright and trademark protection costs a total of \$100.

A MOTION was made by Will Dibling to purchase copyright for \$65 and trademark protection for \$35 for the Historic Greenfield video produced by Ian Kyle, as these will protect the video and the Historic Greenfield logo from illegal use. A SECOND was made by Curtis Brown. All approved by voice vote consensus.

Jon distributed a copy of the County's draft project development schedule (see attached). Some projects take over a year for approval before they can begin. These requirements are why the Council is having a difficult time finding local contractors to submit an RFP and repair the chimney.

**Supervisor's Report** – Steve Clinton also welcomed the guests from Hill Studio and AECOM and was glad they could attend this meeting. He announced that the County is forming a new Historical Properties Committee that will conduct work parallel to what

this Council is doing. Its purpose is to seek out little known properties of historical significance and notify owners of tax credits, historical indexing, elevate visibility of these properties, and develop a future historic driving tour of these forgotten but important historical properties. This committee will be brought before the board of supervisors meeting on September 27 for final approval.

Steve asked Alison Blanton and John Wissinger if they wished to make any comments or reports. Alison stated that the National Society of the Colonial Dames of America are working on a 2022-23 project of installing national historic markers and are wondering if they could place one at Historic Greenfield. She will learn more about this at their next meeting on October 6, and report back. The marker would be similar to the Evans Spring marker placed on the corner of McClanahan and Jefferson Street in Roanoke. It is approx. 24" x 36", sits at a 45 ° and uses 300-500 words.

Jim Johnston stated Council's frustration that three bids for RFPs have been sent out this year, but no responses have been received due to the pandemic, labor shortages, and a difficult RFP process that small construction businesses don't want to deal with. Jim asked John Wissinger of AECOM for his comments and suggestions.

John said Council's next steps should be to seek out new grant opportunities, step back, and think bigger. Support of historic preservation of slave buildings is steadily increasing. More grant money is available than ever before for preservation of underrepresented people.

AECOM and Hill Studio can assist the Council in grant writing. The National Trust for Historic Preservation and the National Park Service only provide funding for large projects. However, two sites in Lynchburg that were smaller scope of work received funding, even though they were not major projects.

Historic Greenfield is still an important part of the African American story and connected to a very active black community today. The Native Americans are also a part of the story, and how Col. Preston settled on the land.

Jon Lanford suggested the County could get a general contractor to retain on an as needed basis and help restore the kitchen chimney. That person can get subs to work and send out their own RFPs also.

Should Council focus on both the kitchen and the chimney?

**Grants** – Roblyn Brand met with Steve and Jim two weeks ago to discuss grant opportunities. Sonja Ingram of National Trust for Historic Preservation gave Roblyn a list of grants for their consideration.

Steve will send Roblyn a copy of the grant he filled out this past year from the African American Cultural Heritage Action Fund.

John says he knows some grant writers Council can use.

**Historic Greenfield Video** - Danny Kyle reported that the video copy right and trademark will be completed soon. Ian Kyle is done with the video, but it needs more final proofing before showing it publicly. It lasts about 35 minutes but should be closer to 30. Danny thinks it will be ready for showing sometime next year.

**Trex** - On behalf of the Botetourt DAR Chapter, Cheryl Sullivan-Willis recently dropped off 150 pounds of soft plastic to Food Lion and has received 150 more. They will qualify for another bench soon, which will be the fourth one for Greenfield.

**Community Outreach Committee** – Steve Clinton, Jim Johnston, Curtis Brown and Ann Morgan met recently to discuss how Council can engage with the corporate community at Greenfield, some of which have an international presence. They feel very positive in getting a good response and even find workers with specialized skills that could benefit Greenfield restoration projects and avoid public contracting. These companies can donate time, money, and in-kind donations.

**Upcoming Events** - The Fincastle Festival will be on September 24 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. The Council is invited to set up a free information table and hand out literature about Historic Greenfield. Danny and Jim will be there to set up the information table. Roblyn and Harry Brand will be there to help, and Wendy will arrive at 1 pm that day to help.

Elizabeth Kostelney, CEO of Preservation Virginia, will be the keynote speaker for the 14<sup>th</sup> anniversary dinner of the Botetourt County History Museum on October 21 (cost is \$35 per person). Steve would like to meet with her and get a letter of support from her.

**Old/New Business** – Danny mentioned that Ricky Dowdy, County Director of Maintenance, is retiring at the end of the month, and that he will be missed. He passed around a card of appreciation for Ricky's service for all to sign and will enclose it with a \$50 gift card.

Mr. Harrington has early documents of Greenfield and will bring those with him to a future meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:22 p.m. The next meeting will be a hybrid one on Tuesday October 18 at 3:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Wendy H. Warren, Secretary

ATTACHMENT: Double click on the pdf link below to open the County's Draft Project Development Schedule



HGPAC Draft Project Development Schedule (1).pdf