

The Historic Greenfield Preservation Advisory Council of Botetourt County

Minutes for Tuesday October 18, 2022

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

Call to order at 3:04 p.m. – Council chair Jim Johnston called this meeting to order and welcomed everyone present, including special guest Michael Harrington.

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

Present: Jim Johnston, Will Dibling, Danny Kyle, Keith McMurry, Curtis Brown, Roblyn Brand, Lynne Bolton, Cheryl Sullivan Willis, Tiffany Bradbury.

On MS Teams: Beth Pappas and Wendy Warren.

Unable to attend: Steve Clinton, Jon Lanford, Edward Preston, Ann Morgan, Eugene Journiette.

Guests: Michael Harrington

Minutes - Wendy Warren emailed out the draft meeting minutes in advance of this meeting. Lynne Bolton made a motion to approve the September 20 meeting minutes, and Keith McMurry seconded. All approved by voice vote consensus.

Chair Report – Jon Lanford and Steve Clinton were absent this day, so Council chair Jim Johnston gave an update and opened the floor for questions to ask them at the next meeting.

Beth Pappas suggested that each member be sent an email as to what Council's next steps should be. She had asked Jon to reach out to a local contractor who did work at Poplar Forest, as he may be able to help Council with its restoration plans. Jim said he would get information on that shortly.

Jim stated that Council has about \$130,000 - \$140,000 to spend and is restricted in what it can spend.

Jim also encouraged everyone to watch the video that Ian Kyle produced. There is no status update on the copyright and trademark. A suggestion was made that Council watch the video as a group, and Jim thought that would be a very good idea.

Jim introduced Michael Harrington, grandson of John and Gertrude Preston who used to live in the house where Edward Preston now lives. Michael inherited two framed documents and brought them with him to this meeting so everyone present could see.

The first document is dated February 1759 and records a land sale from Steven Renfro to William Preston, who bought it for “5 shillings.” The second document is a written record of an unknown parcel of 175 acres of land from King George III and signed by Francis Faquier (governor of Virginia) that cites payment of “20 shillings” to William Preston. This document measures the wooded terrain in terms of “rods” and “poles” and describes how it can be used for hunting, hawking, and falconry. Michael has digital images of both documents.

Greenfield Booklet – Danny Kyle thought it would be a good idea to print more of the Greenfield booklets that were given out at the Harrison Museum presentation back in 2019. These booklets will be given to those who work at the industries in Greenfield to help promote the preservation site.

Danny received a quote of \$107 for 5 copies and a digital file from Digital Imaging. A suggestion was made to get quotes on printing quantities of 10, 25, 50 and 100 copies, and to make sure they will be protected with a Greenfield copyright and trademark (to protect the logo).

He also noted that Digital Imaging only has the logo that does not have the flourishes on it. Tiffany offered to help update the Historic Greenfield logo. Danny will work with Tiffany on this, add more pages to the booklet as needed, and get quotes. Danny will report his findings back to the November meeting.

Grants – No report.

Trex – Beth Pappas reported that the Botetourt DAR Chapter will qualify for another bench soon, which will be the fourth one for Greenfield.

Community Development Committee – Jim Johnston asked Ann Morgan to prepare a draft letter to send to all the businesses in the Greenfield complex. He wants Steve Clinton’s opinion on it before it is sent out.

Upcoming Events – The 14th annual anniversary dinner of the Botetourt County Historical Society will be held on Friday October 21. Tickets are \$35, and Elizabeth Kostelney, CEO of Preservation Virginia, will be the keynote speaker. Jim heard she will be mentioning Greenfield during her presentation. He sent her an email asking if she would like to tour the preservation site while she is in town but has not received a reply yet. Danny will retrieve four boxes of archaeological artifacts from Council’s storage unit and set up a display table during the annual dinner.

The Fincastle Ghost Walk will be held October 28-29.

Old/New Business – The Colonel William Preston DAR Chapter conducted a gravestone/cemetery clean up at the Preston/Bowyer and Gish Cemeteries on Saturday October 15. Organized by Wendy Warren, a total of 9 people participated and learned how to clean gravestones, pulled up weeds, roots, and sticks, and raked leaves. Council members Danny Kyle, Beth Pappas and Jim Johnston lent a hand, as did local historian Carolyn Burger Wiley.

The Preston Cemetery is well maintained and in good condition, but the Gish Cemetery has landscaping issues and needs a new fence. Several gravestones at both cemeteries are also in need of repair. Using the tin foil method to see inscriptions which were hard to read, it was determined that the oldest stone belonged to Jacob Gish, who was born in 1801 and died in 1847 at age 46.

Wendy and Danny also spent a couple hours cleaning the Gish Cemetery in advance of the October 15 cemetery cleanup day.

Jim shared early 20th century never-before-seen photos of Greenfield and a document about William Preston with the Council on MS Teams. These items were donated by Nan Mahone Wellborn and her cousin Helen Greffard. One of the photos provides more details about the kitchen and is the only one we have seen showing the stairs leading to the second floor. The stairs were eventually removed and are no longer attached to the building.

Several Council members asked if the photos and documents can be shared with others, placed on the Historic Greenfield website and in the new booklet that Danny is preparing to distribute to individuals and corporations in our fundraising efforts.

Jim will reach out to Nan and Helen and ask their permission to share these photos with the public by any means they deem appropriate. Council will give them credit to their origin.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:22 p.m. The next meeting will be a hybrid one on Tuesday November 15 at 3:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Wendy H. Warren, Secretary