

**Historic Bath Foundation, Inc.**  
**Annual Meeting Minutes**  
**June 24th, 2016 Bath Town Hall**  
**1000-1100**

Chairman Surry Everett welcomed everyone and opened the meeting asking if a quorum had been met. Milo Gibbs and Karen Sayer verified 25% quorum by proxy returns and/or present members. A count of proxy and present members based on membership from June 27<sup>th</sup> 2015 through June 24 2016 as follows: 197 members with 46% represented members. Jerry inquired as to why our membership had dropped from 245. Karen shared that a new foundation had formed and some loss could be attributed to that and attrition from people moving. None opposed to accepting quorum calculation as verified. Surry asked for approval for rules of the meeting and agenda. None opposed. The chairman asked if everyone had a chance to review the draft minutes and then gave time for everyone to read them. Gene motioned to accept minutes as presented. Second by Jimmy Edwards. None opposed.

### **Treasurer's Report**

Surry introduced Claude Jones who has been working quite diligently in reorganizing the accounting process. The treasurer's report based on the balance sheet as of June 22, 2016 is as follows: total assets \$357,864.81. Cash \$281,510.63 and Bridge Lot \$76,354.18. Liabilities: \$2,101 outstanding check from Tercentennial celebration. From June 27, 2015 through June 22, 2016 Profit and Loss: Membership dues \$22,357 and miscellaneous revenue \$46.92. Expenses: Bulk mail \$1,482.68, Bath Museum \$1,210, Godley House \$3,226, Historic Bath Commission \$8,113.34, N&O Advertising for State Site \$2,180, Sign Project \$200, burying electric/cable at Lawson Walk \$9,054, Wallace H Styron's cemetery marker for Catnip Point \$2,975, Craven St Cemetery fence for town of Bath \$9,574.89, property insurance \$900. Accounting fees \$500, outside contract services (legal) \$8,924.50, general operations \$2,385.16, grants \$533.90, award ceremony \$2,904.65, other expenses \$894.64 for total expenses of \$53,658.76. Surry asked for acceptance of the Treasurer's report. Jimmy Edwards approved. Second by Milo Gibbs. None opposed.

### **Reports of Officers**

**President:** Surry reminded that the small grants program/committee has been dissolved and any grant requests will come directly before the board for their consideration. Surry shared that we will be meet with Keith Hardison, Director of Historic Sites, later today in Raleigh to formally propose moving the Visitor Center to the NW wing of the High School. We are asking them to provide us with a decision by the end of August. We expect to complete the first floor renovation by spring 2018 in order to be available for the Blackbeard exhibit which will be the centerpiece of Blackbeard's connection with Bath.

**Vice President:** Gene shared that we have approximately \$150,000 on hand to be spent on the project and have a commitment for another \$200,000. We will need to raise at least \$250,000 additional by the end of the year. We have ideas on benefactors but welcome any thoughts you have in this regards. The State signals are more receptive but in the end we don't know if they will agree, even if they don't, we need to move immediately to stabilize the first floor so it doesn't get any worse. This is the single biggest under taking that the foundation has tried and at a time when we are committed to the second biggest project budgeted. We broke ground this morning for the park at the base of the bridge which has been budgeted for a cost of \$100,000. We are deeply appreciative of BHSP because their action of deed transfer has given us all the opportunity to provide this space to the State. Are there any questions. Jerry spoke to the timeline and a chart of the actions needed to take place in a certain timeframe were provided to the members in graph form. Jerry emphasized that we need to meet each in sequence in order to open on time. Gene shared the rendering which places the visitor center portion located along the Harding Street side and the rest is left for exhibition space. Wayland Sermons inquired about the upstairs renovation. Gene shared it is in our long

range plans but for now it could be used for storage. In the end, it will add another 4000 sq. ft. so the museum and visitor center can grow. Josie Hookway asked if we would add a curator which she feels will be essential to get the state to come on board and we will also need the state to provide for liability. Josie asked about state specifications and Gene said we would meet them and an elevator will be phased in either by HBF or BHSP. We have an easement with BHSP on possibly sharing an elevator where the boy's bathroom was once located. We have consulted with a contractor and the first floor is underpinned better than any construction in the last 50 years. Someone raised the questions as to whether we would have a catering kitchen and at this point there is no plan for one. Wayland Sermons inquired about Seldon Taylor being the contractor and whether there would be a bidding process to get lowest price. Gene shared the project will be phased out in several bid packages but we will not necessarily take the lowest bid. We want to make sure work is top notch and this may take a specialized contractor who has dealt with rehabilitating old structures. We will choose someone who has comprehensive knowledge with this type of construction. However, the stabilization is immediately imperative and we are likely go with Seldon.

**Secretary:** Karen shared the membership report: 197 members with dues \$22 357 compared to last year's 245 members and \$27,000.

### **Reports of Committees**

**Small Grants:** Two grants were awarded for the Site. One for rack cards and the other for colonial costuming. (images of both provided to members)

**Museum:** as reported per Vice President.

**Finance/Fundraising:**

**Report of Ex-Officio Directors**

**Mayor of Bath:** absent

**Chairman Historic Bath Commission:** Penny Sermons was introduced as the new chairman of the Commission. She extended a sincere thank you to Peggy for her role as previous chairman. She thanked the foundation for providing support for the Port Bath event in the form of funding for historic interpretation: Ada Mae skipjack and Colonial Customs House. She indicated that Josie and staff are working hard as Leigh is under the weather. The Elizabeth II will be in Bath in October. There is a push to improve tourism. There was a count of 4400 visitors on Port Bath event day.

**Manager Historic Bath State Historic Site:** absent

**Bath High School Preservation President:** Ruth Dorkin shared that she is looking forward to moving ahead with plans for the auditorium but the next project would be to place a catering kitchen in the gallery. It would make it more appealing for renting. BHSP is still working on naming the gallery.

**Old Business:** Surry recognized two founding board members who were in the audience, Wayland and Jack. Wayland shared that he recalled a document being signed by the state in 1999 indicating some of the Blackbeard artifacts will be placed in Bath but there are a lot of towns claiming him. Wayland offered to assist as allowable but fund raising would be one thing he couldn't offer.

**New Business:** Surry shared that Jerry had been appointed by the board through email vote to fill Jason Pair's unexpired term. Jerry said he was happy to be back on the board and would be very involved in keeping close tabs on the museum construction schedule.

Surry asked for the nominating committee report. Karen shared the following nominee biographies:

Milo L. Gibbs, Jr. has had a longtime love for the Town of Bath. It was the home of his father and grandparents. His grandfather operated the Swindell's Cash Store for many years, and his grandmother operated a furniture store. He helped both of them in the stores, and during this time came to appreciate the Town of Bath and its rich history for both our state and country. He would like to serve on the Foundation Board of Directors to help in some small way to preserve the history of Bath while moving it forward in

promoting it to our fellow citizens. He feels the primary purpose of the Foundation is to preserve the integrity of its rich history, while at the same time promoting the current town with projects for improvements that both preserve and promote the Town of Bath. He has served on other non-profits boards in various capacities including being a founding board member of the Historic Bath Foundation. He has served as President for the following: United Way of Wilson County, Wilson Rotary Club, The Salvation Army (Wilson Chapter), The American Cancer Society (Wilson Chapter), Barton College Friends of the Library, Friends of the Wilson County Public Library, The North Carolina Baseball Museum, Wilson Arts Council, American Red Cross (Wilson Chapter), Housing Authority of the City of Wilson, Executive Committee of the East Carolina Council of the Boy Scouts of America. He has a special interest in creating a common bond within groups by being a good listener and incorporating everyone's different experiences, perspectives, and ideas. He is also interested in sharing his public relations, advertising, and strategic planning expertise.

Patricia Samford is interested in serving on the Foundation Board of Directors because after having been the manager of Historic Bath State Historic Site for four years, she grew to love the town and its residents. She feels the primary purpose of the Foundation is to promote Bath as the first incorporated town in North Carolina while preserving the town's historical character and integrity. She has served on other non-profit boards in various capacities including current role as Vice president of St. Mary's River Watershed Association, member of Orange County Historic Preservation Commission, and member of the Council for Northeast Historical Archaeology. Patricia would like to share her knowledge of historic preservation, museum administration, and archaeology for the betterment of Historic Bath. She has experience in planning fund raising events, grant writing, group facilitation, legal considerations, preservation philosophies, advertising and strategic planning.

Jerry Waters has been a lifelong resident of eastern North Carolina and currently resides on Bath Creek. He grew up on a local tobacco farm and attended Bath High School. He appreciates the rich history of the Town of Bath and values the community and its citizens. Jerry believes the primary purpose of the Historic Bath Foundation is to preserve the history of the town while financially supporting projects which improve and protect the historic aspects and architectural heritage of the Town of Bath. Jerry has served on several non-profit foundation boards including a prior term on the HBF. Jerry retired from a career in construction and mining and is interested in sharing his management, strategic planning and leadership experience to facilitate projects that enhance the Town of Bath and the community.

Surry asked for nominations from the floor. No nominations from the floor were received. Wayland motioned to close nominations from the floor. Second by Jimmy Edwards. Surry asked for discussion. None offered. Surry asked for unanimous motion to accept nominees. Wayland Sermons motioned to accept by acclamation. Second by Jimmy Edwards. None opposed.

Surry asked for additional discussion and with none Jimmy motioned to adjourn the meeting. Second by Jerry. None opposed. Surry announced a short quarterly board meeting would follow. The next annual meeting is scheduled for June 30, 2017 1000 at Bath Town Hall. Meeting adjourned.

Submitted

Karen Sayer  
Secretary

