

Historic Bath Foundation, Inc.
Museum - Called Meeting Minutes
December 10, 2016 4pm

Vice Chairman Gene Roberts shared we had arranged for a special called meeting ahead of tonight's award ceremony. A quorum was determined. Board members present: Gene, Karen, Milo, Betsy, Jimmy, Jerry, Tricia. Absent: Claude, Surry.

Gene welcomed everyone and recognized Keith Hardison and Kevin Cherry from the North Carolina Department of Natural and Cultural Resources.

Gene shared that he, Surry, Jerry, and Karen met with Keith Hardison and his department is willing to take a 5-year lease option with an option to extend. The department is willing to place \$200,000 into the exhibit and they are standing behind the loan agreement for artifacts. We have \$150,000 on hand in restricted funds and three board members have each pledged \$100,000. In addition, we have a \$300,000 challenge grant provided by a local non-profit. The first floor, elevator and upstairs climatized storage is projected to cost \$750,000-\$800,000 and with a completed upstairs exhibit space the cost goes to around a million.

Jerry will attend the NC Foundation Association meeting in January to see which organizations are interested in capital investments. Keith and Kevin mentioned The Cannon Foundation, Covington, and perhaps the Minges family out of Greenville. Jerry will make a presentation to the County Commissioners regarding economic development and possibly receiving funding from the county. In addition, Jerry has an application into PCS and we will know something from them in June. There was discussion of whether we should speak to legislative leadership about their interest in the project. Sometimes they have funding between \$50,000 and \$150,000 for disbursements to special projects. Tricia asked if we would have fund raising events and reminded of the possibility of displaying the only surviving volume from the Bath library which St. Thomas owns. Gene indicated we may have a fund-raising event in the summer for the park opening. If we receive large funding from individuals, the state is comfortable with us naming rooms for them. Keith shared that Tryon Palace did a similar thing in which they estimated the cost of an exhibit room and if a funder provided eighty percent of the cost then that exhibit space would be named for them. Keith also shared that his team has identified but not formulated exhibits yet. The two classrooms will become one and house permanent and multiple narratives although the artifacts may change. Keith thanked the board members for their generous nature and hard work. It is rare that such large contributions by board members be made. There is a lot of commitment expressed here and you are helping us expand our commitment. There had been some question about increasing our lease to a ten-year lease and we will consider options once we know more. Kevin indicated there would be no problem if in the event any property is gifted and received by the state that it would be noted in the deed to be in state ownership as intended use in perpetuity.

Gene offered opportunity for further discussion. Jimmy reminded that he is working on planting heritage apple trees on the State Site. No further discussions offered. Meeting adjourned.

Submitted, Karen Sayer, Secretary