

Historic Bath Foundation, Inc.
Quarterly Meeting Minutes
March 25 2016, 3pm

Chairman Surry Everett welcomed everyone. A quorum was determined.

President/Treasurer's Report: Surry reported on behalf of Claude the following: Current Cash \$289,011.05 with \$122,475.79 being restricted for the museum and park property asset is \$76,354.18. Public support \$10,526.35. Expenses: Operations \$1,293.71 and Award Ceremony \$2,200. Liabilities \$2147.82. Surry asked for discussion. Report accepted by the full board with no further discussion.

Reports of Officers

Vice President: see reports of committees

Secretary: We have had two membership mailings and received so far dues of \$13,000. Karen explained the difference in public support (10,526.35 vs 13,000) is because the membership year runs from July to June versus January to December. Surry said he would work towards changing the membership year to January to December. Funds approved per email vote (9,054) for burying the electric and cable at Lawson Walk. The Willson marker is still in limbo as I have not contacted Mr. Willson but I will attempt to notify him of the decision to move forward with the installation if he is agreeable. We received notice of renewal of contract from Garden Classics to mow the park property at the same cost as last year. Surry asked for approval of contract. No discussion. Full board approved.

Reports of Committees

Small Grants: Surry explained that the small grants program has been dissolved and all grant request now come directly to the full board. There are two requests this season from the State Site for rack cards at a cost of \$950.00 and colonial costuming at a cost of \$1975. The full board reviewed the descriptions provided. Jimmy motioned to approve expenditure. Second by Betsy. No discussion. None opposed. Surry shared that we are a big funder to the Commission/Site as we provided funds last grant cycle for the dock caps \$795 and the smokehouse restoration \$800. In addition, recent contributions to support the site include: \$1200 to Gil Hookway for creating a maritime chest for the site, \$2800 for Port Bath historic interpretation displays of Ada Mae and the Customs House and we continue to provide ongoing temporary staff for Sunday which is \$400 per quarter. At the request of the HBC Chair, we paid half the cost for the town of Bath Port banners at a cost to us of \$2200. HBC has entered into a contract with the State to provide annually \$25,000 in support of the Site and any funding we provide to them goes towards their funding goal.

Museum: Gene explained that we are in the process of working out details of the deed transfer. We will then visit Raleigh to propose moving the Visitor Center into the NW Wing along with museum display rooms. We have indication they are more open minded about it now. The museum committee asked Ken Freidlien to give us an idea of how it would look (rendering shared). The old visitor center could be initially used as storage and we know that ECU has a lot of Bath artifacts which could possibly be stored there until the NW Wing 2nd floor is renovated. We are estimating Phase 1 which includes stabilization of the 2nd floor will cost around \$600,000. If the state agrees it will make fund raising easier. Whether the state agree right away or not, we need to stabilize the wing and the sagging floor. We have the money in the museum fund. We will meet with Stocks and Taylor to get a price. They know the building and have proven themselves with their work on the library wing. Surry said it would be ideal if we could eventually raise the current "bus stop" visitor center and move the Van der Veer house into that area somewhere. Gene said it would certainly add to the impression of a historic town. Parking will be shared with the town and BHSP at existing parking area and some more available areas are in town along Harding Street and possibly King Street.

Fund Raising: Karen reports that a total of four to five membership mailings will be sent and no other efforts are planned until we are ready to move forward with the museum.

Park: Gene reported that we couldn't resolve PARTF management issues with the town to our satisfaction and commitment to our members so we are moving forward ourselves with fulfilling the park as originally planned. We met with the town HDC and received approval on the amenities. We are now waiting on a list of discussion points for the town planning board meeting. So far the contracts have come in under \$60,000 which is just a bit over what we had obligated for matching PARTF funds. We are still below budget of \$100,000. We are waiting on shoreline stabilization costs and we may want to come back with more landscape beautification later. Jason brought up concerns that red maples might not be salt tolerant and that the neighbor is concerned about blocking his view. Gene said we bought the properties at the same time and he knew our intentions. We have done decent to accommodate him. Originally we were going to have a brick fence and crape myrtles there. In August 2014 the mayor sent an angry email regarding the restaurant utilizing the park as a parking lot. The mayor contributed money to the park project and he objected to the business using the park. We have been good neighbors but we need a visual buffer to keep the restaurant patrons in the restaurant parking lot. And it would be strange to have a park without vegetation and trees. The plan has been approved by the community through a public hearing and we will install the elements as planned. We have already indicated that we would be willing to trim the hedge to 4'.

Report of Ex-Officio Directors

Mayor of Bath: absent

Chairman Historic Bath Commission: absent

Manager Historic Bath State Historic Site: absent

Bath High School Preservation President: Ruth shared that the gallery has been completed and there is some discussion of utilizing the space where the old girl's bathroom was located as a kitchen. The oyster roast was a big success. I have spoken to the Migratory Commission in Creswel about capping the chimneys and they say it is okay to do so in off season which would be September or October.

Old Business: Gene shared that the Craven Street cemetery fence and Styron marker are installed. The Godley house roof has been stabilized and the windows are boarded up with venting in place. Now we are trying to find someone to restore it. One very interested couple may be able to place it on their farmland. Gene reminded of our productivity over the recent years and shared a few projects that we accomplished. We financed re-creating of the garden at the Bonner House for \$20,000, we were the largest contributor to the repainting/remodel of the Glebe House, we bought, stabilized, and sold two stores on Main Street near the Palmer Marsh house, we contributed \$10,000 to the Lawson Walk, and \$94,000 to BHSP. We helped secure the \$250,000 Golden LEAF grant for the library, and now we are set to complete a town park and move forward with the NW wing of the high school.

Port Bath sign – Tricia will follow up on this.

Senior Center – This project is stalled and it seems that it will be left to the town council to decide if this is something they want to pursue. Robin Boyd and George Chrismon have offered chairs that came from PCS for the Senior Center to us. Karen will send a thank you to them both.

Jason shared that Port Bath celebration is May 28th and there will be a band, food, sky divers, fireworks and the Governor. Tickets for the reception are \$100 each.

New Business:

Gene shared that the HWY 92 trees were in jeopardy and HBC has objected to the six trees in a row on state right way being taken down by the town of Bath. They provide ambiance and shade to the site property. We attended the town meeting in protest and a compromise was reached of only two trees being removed. We obligated to HBC to pay for trimming of the remaining trees this fall.

Jason asked if we had board liability insurance because he thought we might need it. Surry will pursue. Jimmy asked if he could plant apples trees at the orchid site on state property and the full board approved \$500 for this project.

Karen asked for board members to send recommendations for open board seats.

Surry asked for additional new business. No further business was offered and Surry adjourned the meeting with notice of the next annual/quarterly meeting being June 24th 1000.

Submitted,

Karen Sayer
Secretary