

Historic Bath Foundation, Inc.
Annual Meeting Minutes
July 15, 2011
Bath Town Hall
1000-1200

Chairman Surry Everett welcomed everyone and opened with rules of the meeting and approval of the agenda. Two changes to the agenda include adding BHSP report and moving nominating report to new business. None opposed. He asked if there was a quorum by proxy and present members. A quorum was determined and dispensing of reading all names was made as a motion by Blanche Monroe and Second by Jerry Waters. No discussion. None opposed. The chairman asked if everyone had a chance to review the draft minutes which had been online for about a year. He asked if reading of the minutes was necessary. Barbara Oliver moved to dispense with reading the minutes and Blanche Monroe Second the motion. There were no questions or corrections. None opposed.

Treasurer's Report

Mariann reported the total cash balance for 2010 year end was 233,004.38. Income exceeded budget by 5,565.55. Expenses exceeded budget by 54,632.45 primarily due to grants of 59,246.86. Restricted funds as of December 2010 are 130,635.79. We still have outstanding Tercentennial liability of 2,201. As of June 30, 2011 cash increased by net income 10,816.03. Unrestricted funds are 110,983.72. The 2010 tax return was filed by epost-card and accepted by the IRS. She will try to clear up the outstanding tercentennial funds. Gene motioned to accept report. Jerry Second. No discussion. None opposed.

Reports of Officers

President: Surry reported there had been no concerns expressed by the IRS regarding changing our Bylaws and Articles of Incorporation. They had expressed no issue during a previous telephone conversation I had with them but I sent a return receipt letter to them and there was no response. The letter was not returned and so therefore, this issue is considered resolved if no-one is opposed. No discussion. None opposed. Surry shared that we need to continue moving forward with preserving the historic aspects of Bath and the surrounding area. We should continue to work together with the High School, Town and Commission to promote cooperation and move towards consensus. We should strive to move in the same direction versus all points of the compass.

Vice President: Gene reported the three large grants have stimulated a wonderful response. Blanche has moved the Bonner Garden forward with the 20,000 that was granted to the State Site and it is a great addition. 10,000 to the Town's Lawson Walk also allowed them to move forward with receiving a 18,000 grant from NC Parks and Recreation. The 50,000 to the High School touched off 120,000 in giving since the grant was awarded. The new roof is on and complete. The large grants work precisely the way we thought and they stimulated action and more giving for the greater good for Bath.

Secretary: Karen introduced Membership Chairman and Michelle shared that we are at baseline despite the economy but with the new website and brochure we hope to reach a broader membership audience including a targeted population of Beaufort County.

Reports of Committees

Small Grants: Blanche shared that five small grant applications had been received and four awarded. Noe-Clayton House is to receive 3,250 and has provided a detailed account on what the funds will be used for related to structural repairs. Bath Cemetery received 500, the Van der Veer House 750 and Town of Bath Architectural Guidelines 500.

Museum: Gene reported there are an astounding number of artifacts in the Bath area and the owners almost always request assurance in writing that items donated will stay in Bath. At the last Commission meeting, Secretary Linda Carlisle and Historic Sites Director Keith Hardison said they could make this happen. And, I later received a positive letter from Secretary Carlisle referencing our progress and possible donations. We will need a closet for storage which is temperature controlled and we can handle that to store what we expect soon once the document is signed. Josie expressed appreciation and said this has never been done before and you are breaking new ground. Gene said if the promise agreement is satisfactory then a gift of the 1st English edition of Lawson's Voyage to Carolina and the 1st German edition will be donated and we hope this will stimulate others to give under the same agreement.

Preservation Award: Gene shared that it was the first time awards have been given in Bath for activity and leadership in preservation. Last year's awards were presented to JR Boyd, Peg Daw and Ken Friedlein. A decision will be made at the fall meeting of who will receive awards this year and we are accepting nominees. Two possible examples are the owners of the two homes on Main Street which were recently constructed/renovated to be in harmony with Bath.

Strategic Plan: Jerry shared that in an effort to get groups together and head in like directions we saw a need to develop a road map of what we want to accomplish in the next several years. We looked at our Articles, Mission, and we created objectives based on encouraging and promoting the historic aspects of the Town of Bath through aiding the Historic Bath Commission and the North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources in acquiring historic objects and developing historic properties, interpretations and functions, working cooperatively with the Historic Bath Commission, the Historic Bath State Historic Site, the Town of Bath and other civic groups who are working towards preserving and telling the complete and true story of Bath, and to become a proactive leader by bringing all like-minded groups together in order to facilitate charitable contributions and attributes. Short term objectives include: a. Increase membership level to 500. b. Create a comprehensive Website. c. Conduct special functions to promote the Foundation. d. Become more interactive with community events (parade, Bath Fest). e. Create and distribute flyer/brochure – related to Outreach and Information sessions. f. Set up individual focus group discussion: how can we work together (HBC, Town of Bath, Lions, Ruritan, Book Club, Garden Club, BHSP, and Library). g. Reach out to all Beaufort County

citizens. Long term objectives include: a. Assist historical research and study of Bath and surrounding areas and the value related to NC history. b. Aid in purchase, preservation, rehabilitation or restoration of structures and sites in Bath that have special historical significance, architectural or aesthetic value. c. Promote maintenance and advancement of the Historic Bath State Historic Site. d. Implement an educational program of historic interest to Bath and Beaufort County including such things as storytelling and Maritime lecture. e. Develop a Museum to preserve and exhibit the treasures of Bath. Develop a donation protocol and establish a mechanism to ensure donated items remain in Bath. Provide an interim storage space in order to secure items from people willing to donate items now. f. Coordinate with other civic groups with consideration to forming grant seeking committees. g. Create a new and more comprehensive Bath Historic Site Walking Tour Brochure. h. Develop a promotional plan. i. Develop a biannual newsletter. We have created a scorecard for monitoring our progress which relates directly to our success measures: membership level, funding level, projects completed, and artifact donation.

Report of Ex-officio Directors

Mayor of Bath: Surry reported that Jimmy sent an email saying that they are continuing to seek a resolution to the sewage moratorium.

Chairman Historic Bath Commission: Bill shared that the Commission, Site and DCR have taken a huge hit financially through budget constraints and we are focused on basic necessities. We are limited and working through a difficult circumstance. The Site is fragile and the Commission is stepping up. We are grateful for the Foundation's help and financial assistance. We were advised this week that Board and Commissions are still being looked at and there is no guarantee it will remain in existence. No-one is safe and we must conform. We operate a lot differently than other Commissions because we are created by legislation. We have rules we have to follow, if we are derelict, the Governor and Department of Cultural Resources and legislators can end the Commission. We need to follow steps we like and don't like. Jimmy Edwards got some of us together and found out where we could work together. Through a friend who knows how to get around in Raleigh, we addressed the legislators with letters to the correct people which expressed our opposition to the possible closing of the Bath Site.

Manager Historic Bath State Historic Site: Leigh shared that in 2010-11 we had an upswing in the number of visitations from 15,000 to 18,000 despite the economic climate. We are appreciative of HBF's funding of the Bonner Garden and re-printing of the Walking Tour Brochure. Thanks to Surry and others for stepping up to work together for creating a unified voice which is being heard in Raleigh regarding the possibility of the Visitor Center being closed. We have awarded the grounds/maintenance vacant position to Wayne Randall and the state has funded re-painting and wood repairs of the houses in preparation of our 50 year celebration. The re-painting of the Palmer-Marsh House to Spanish Brown is a controversial decision and we made every effort to explain to everyone that it is appropriate as the original

color. It is the same with painting the old Visitor Center white which was once located in a 1930's store. We hosted 23 programs this year and had a successful Christmas Open House with 3,241 visitors and we continue to partner with the Town's Bath Fest Committee for that annual event. Jerry asked Bill and Leigh if they could share what percentage the reduction is for the Site. Bill shared somewhere between ½-1% for DCR annual budget and others such as the Transportation Museum are taking bigger hits. They are likely to cut operating expenses next year by 50% and they will become an Enterprise Site and generate their own operating expense. We are trying to find out what constitutes these decisions.

New Business

BHSP: Jimmy Edwards indicated that BHSP also received a nice letter from Secretary Carlisle regarding the progress we have made. The structure is now completely dry and the windows are next. We recently had a structural inspection and the building is sound. Thanks to HBF for awarding BHSP the 50,000 grant. You literally saved the school and we could not have done it without you.

Nominating Committee: Surry called for the slate of possible new directors to be presented. Karen summarized in saying the nominating committee slate is incomplete because we did not hear from the Commission this past Monday as to who they were re-appointing. The two current appointees are eligible, Surry and Karen. We are at a quandary as to providing suggestions for at-large seats since Surry and Karen are both HBF Executive Directors and we do not know if they will retain their seats. Surry asked Bill if he had knowledge of who the Commission appointed. Bill replied Surry and Josie. Surry asked for input from the nominating committee. Karen asked for time to put together written biographies of their recommendations. Surry called for a ten minute break. Karen presented to the board and membership biographies of Betsy Boxer and Karen Sayer to fill the two open at-large director seats. Surry called for nominations from the floor. None provided. No questions. Gene motioned to close the nomination process. Jerry second. No discussion. None opposed. June Wallace moved to accept nominations. Nelda Ormond Second. Discussion ensued regarding Betsy being placed in the unexpired term for one year and Karen in the three year term. None opposed.

The Chairman asked if there was any other business to come before the board. None offered. Jimmy Edwards motioned to adjourn meeting. Michelle Myers Second.

Submitted

Karen Sayer
Secretary

