

Historic Bath Foundation Board meeting
07/15/2011
Bath Town Hall

Roll Call: Chairman Everett welcomed new members. Directors present: Surry Everett, Karen Sayer, Gene Roberts, Robin Boyd, Jerry Waters, Blanche Monroe, Mariann McQueen, Betsy Boxer, Josie Hookway. **Quorum:** All 9 Directors present. Ex-Officio Directors present: Leigh Swain; absent: Jimmy Latham, Bill Pruitt

Minutes reviewed: The Chairman motioned to approve. Discussion: Chairman asked for previous meeting minutes to be sent to new members. **None opposed. Approved with no corrections.**

Treasurer's report: As per annual meeting. Mariann asked about creating a finance committee since there were some issues she didn't feel comfortable deciding on her own. She also shared that we should think of various ways of raising money other than membership dues. The Chairman concurred and Mariann, Robin, Jerry agreed to serve on that committee.

Report of Officers:

None

Reports of Committees

Nominating Committee: Karen shared the Slate of Officers as follows: President: Surry, Vice President: Gene, Treasurer: Mariann, Secretary: Karen. The Chairman asked for additional nominees. None received and no further discussion. Robin motioned to accept nominees. Jerry Second. **None opposed.**

Membership Committee

Robin shared the new brochure and website is being created to reach a larger audience and for creating a mechanism of transparency and enhanced communication with our members. The *historic bath.com* site has been purchased and we have discussed with Jay Mason the preference to pay him ½ of the cost of labor now and the balance upon completion of the website with board approval. The board members agreed this is appropriate and if you are unable to reach a compromise then you can search out another source for creating the website. Robin said Pamela would present the brochures later in the meeting.

Museum Concept Committee: Gene said he and Karen have still not ascertained from the state what is available for an Indian display and so we haven't formed a conclusion as to whether there is enough to put on an exhibit. Leigh will arrange for us all to meet with the state people in August to talk about it in more detail. Also when we met with Dr. Ewen to see the items there, he proposed that Bath artifacts come to Bath under ECU supervision and with cooperation of the state. One of our long range plans is to find a suitable place to transfer and store items in Bath. In addition, local artifacts might be lost to future generations if we don't work towards creating a document that safeguards that artifacts given to Bath will stay in Bath. The Chairman asked when will the school be ready for storage of such items. Blanche said this is valid. Gene said he will start by inquiring with Dr. Ewen as to what kind of space is needed for those items. **None opposed.**

Report from Ex-officio Directors

Chairman, Historic Bath Commission

As per annual meeting report

Mayor of the Town of Bath

As per annual meeting report

Manager of the Historic Bath State Historic Site

As per annual meeting report

Old and unfinished business:

Bath High School

Gene explained that two wings and the connector of BHS has a new roof and the restoration of the original portico will be done in October by mason, Jim Price. BHS hopes to restore all windows which are boarded up and their priority is the courtyard windows which face HWY 92. 2500 was approved by HBF for windows and the BHS contractor recommended they be done after the roof was completed and so therefore BHS is asking for an extension for the small grant which was awarded. **None opposed.** After the exterior is restored, the south wing will be the next step with the idea of putting the library downstairs. A presentation was made to the Beaufort-Hyde-Martin Board about moving the library there and my impression is that it was really up to the local Friends of the Library to provide a facility.

Lawson Walk

Karen shared the Town had received the NC Parks and Recreation grant largely due to Karen Waters' hard work in putting the application together. Phase II will consist of planting around 50 large trees and installing the historic interpretation signage as well as the recreational components. Blanche recommended consideration be given as to how the plants will be watered.

Bonner House Landscaping - Blanche said a lot of work had been completed on the colonial revival garden and explained that it is not a restored garden but a replication based on concepts of what a colonial design would have been. There are still unused funds from the 20,000 grant award for the colonial garden. She also reviewed the balance of funds from the grape arbor project and requested that the balance of unused funds (362.29) be allowed to be utilized for the Bonner project in general. Josie motioned to approve request. Jerry second. Discussion: apprise board by email if there are any significant changes in the way funds are used. **None Opposed.**

New Business

Strategic Planning

Jerry shared that we are already moving forward on aspects of the strategic plan and we will need to put together a measuring system. We will want to assemble sub committees for individual aspects of the plan. He will present ideas at our next meeting if everyone agrees. **None opposed.**

Signs

The Chairman said he had a request from Joan Chrismon about whether HBF would consider highlighting Bath through highway signs. The Chairman asked for volunteers to form a sign committee. Josie, Betsy volunteered.

The Chairman recommended Joan and possibly Lynne Lewis to be on the committee also.

BHSP

The Chairman said he received a letter from the President of BHSP requesting a grant for 25,000. The letter request included the following comments: the funds would be used to restore all windows along the HWY 92 Corridor, King Street, paint all eaves, install gutters and drain pipes. This would make the structure presentable to tourists and people considering relocation to Bath. It will help keep the interior of the building dry and prevent accumulating water on the bricks near the ground. This will prevent the wall subsidence problem. In addition, the foundation's investment in the northwest wing will be protected and it will ensure that it would be ready for a museum when that time comes. Gene motioned to accept. Second by Karen. Discussion: Blanche wondered if there was a listing of total funds given to the High School. Gene said 61,500 (50,000 grant, (3)small grants for 2500, 4000 to kick off the feasibility study). So far, HBF has financed 20% of the school project and if we give this in addition to their upcoming fund raising events, it would amount to 25% total cost expended. Imagine at the end of the year, tourists will see it in its prime with 2 main wings restored. This is timely and would finish the exterior by the end of the year and then allow BHSP to move forward with restoring and preparing the South wing for the library. Blanche said she understands this needs to happen fast but people will ask about it and we need to justify it. Jerry asked about the percentage of our funds that have accounted for the BHSP project. Karen estimated it to be less than 20%. (61,500 of 330,000). Josie agrees it is essential for the project to move forward. We have given them a push but we need to look at their budget. They are a healthy organization and doing well. Gene urged the board to vote today so the exterior can be completed by the end of the year. The goal is to rehabilitate the single largest historic structure in Bath. Bath will not live up to its potential as long as it has historic structures with boarded-up windows. It is the biggest and first impression tourists see when they come to Bath's visitor center. Jerry explained that with the last large grant awarded to BHSP we had stipulations related to utilizing the NW wing for a museum and this grant should fall under those same terms and asked if the board agreed. **None opposed.** Gene shared that giving inspires more giving and he can see that HBF could potentially give up to 100,000. Our grants have inspired other Foundations to give in addition to private funding as evidenced by the 35,000 anonymous donation for the portico restoration. Jerry expressed that we need to protect the building from further deterioration and restoring as requested is imperative for waterproofing. If we don't act to waterproof the building now then the HBF investment could be lost. Mariann said that would leave us unrestricted funds of 73,000. Robin asked about the Town forgiving the loan. Gene said the Council is considering waiving a payment but this is not confirmed. Gene said the original intent of the Town was to tear down the structure if BHSP couldn't make it presentable. We think this will convince them and perhaps lead to loan forgiveness. Jerry motioned to amend the motion to add a provision regarding BHSP following same terms as the previous 50,000 grant. The Chairman asked Gene and Karen if they agree with amendment. Both agreed. **7 approve. 2 opposed.** Mariann shared that it would be helpful to encourage more BHSP members to become HBF members. The Chairman challenged each board member to recruit three new HBF members from the BHSP membership.

One Vote per Household

The Chairman said there had been an inquiry from a member about households not receiving two votes if two separate memberships had been created. Surry shared that our bylaws had been clarified last year for simplicity to only allow one vote per household.

Miscellaneous

Josie said we need to raise more money.

Karen asked if we should send a letter to Len Wilson's father regarding our small grants program so perhaps structural repairs could be encouraged to those structures.

Gene said he would like to see the Glebe House, Methodist Church and Christian church be listed individually like St. Thomas Church on the National Register. We should do what it takes to encourage and get it done.

The Chairman said we could talk about these things at our next meeting.

Brochure/Website: Pamela Cox from Five to Ten Design

Pamela presented the materials and the board was pleased and offered the following alterations: logo preference is Palmer Marsh chimney, can we add a Bonner garden photograph, add 501c3, add map to rack card, take off credit card payment,

The Chairman inquired as to any further business. **None indicated. Meeting adjourned.**

Submitted

Karen Sayer
Secretary

Next quarterly meeting: September 30th 3-5PM, Bath Town H all