

**Minutes of General Meeting  
Bath High School Preservation, Inc.  
7:00 p.m., March 30, 2006  
Bath Christian Church**

Board members present: Harold Cutler, Peggy Smith, Mike Godley, Nelda Ormond, Ron Moore, Jack Wallace and Rick Nittoli.

Members and interested parties present: Cynthia Brickhouse, Mary Lynn Davenport, Surry Everett, Ron Griswold, Bob Anderson, Jim Cox, David Cox, Ken Friedlein, Marti Buchanan, Karen and David Sayer

Peggy Daw Smith, President presided; Karen Sayer Acting Secretary.

Peggy's introduction:

On March 13<sup>th</sup> the town board expressed a change in attitude since they have seen evidence of continued support and extended opportunities for the High School property. They have agreed to allow our group to provide liability insurance as well as complete the needed temporary roof repairs as spelled out in David Gall and David Fischetti's recommendations. The liability has been provided under the town's insurance policy. It was just a matter of adding it to their existing structures covered so it is not necessary for BHSP to fund the estimated \$840.00. The roof repair will be completed in a few more days. The crew is scheduled. Peggy conferred with Surry who commented on behalf of David that everyone is ironing out visual preferences from the recommendations and the town perspective. He agrees that it will be done soon; they have agreed upon a more presentable solution of rolled roofing rather than a tarp. Inquiry made regarding whether a barrier should be place around the work area. Peggy – I feel the contractors will deal with those issues as professionals. However, we will contact the Bath Elementary School principal regarding the work dates.

Peggy: The feasibility study is a very important and positive step forward. The town has approved for submittal by Ken Friedlein. We should know the value awarded by April 27<sup>th</sup>. We are in hopes of the full value of 25,000. Historic Bath Foundation has contributed \$4000 and the town \$1000, in order to qualify for this opportunity. Originally the Foundation had approved \$10,000 from their budget last December to perform this kind of feasibility study for their museum needs. This more comprehensive study puts all interested parties in a better position. This study will allow for the inclusion of all aspects of possible uses such as: visitor's center, welcome center, museum, library, town hall, performing arts auditorium, etc. We must continue preparing for possible usages whether the museum is going to be into the building or not. We provided a letter of support for the grant application package, along with the Library, Foundation and Commission.

Ken: This study will take six months to complete and will be submitted in full by September. Our goal is to include all users; including mixed uses, private enterprises, etc., bringing them together for the purpose of gathering all possible information. Resolution and commitment is needed for this to be a successful study. Currently, one thing that will need to be clarified is if the structure will be classified as part of the "museum" or whether it is a re-use/adaptive use plan. This could be one of the largest components of the study and may be a deciding factor as to the flow of rehabilitation.

Peggy: Ninety percent of museums are housed in historic buildings: ex: Bonner House, Palmer Marsh House. There are many aspects to museums not just science and art. We can tune into our heritage and tourism. Museum specialists such as The National Trust for Preservation emphasize the building as being a component and integral to the museum aspect. The "atmosphere" of an historic structure can never be reproducible in a new building. Historic structures can handle all issues if we strive for creative solutions to such things as climate, security control, and handicap accessibility. We need to focus on bringing together local interests, the community, and businesses, as well as collaborative sponsorship through fund raising. How can we help specifically with this study Ken?

Ken: I need to be aware of ongoing conversations, preservation issues, usage, and adaptive re-use ideas. This building is a rich asset and needs to be put to good use. I will need to know the desires of all interested parties. One of the most important features of this building is the placement of the building in relationship to the community. It occupies a great corner. This building needs to be saved. I need to explore and take in all comments. All expressions of what is required to support the needs of interested parties' needs to be discussed. I need to know in entirety the possible different interior needs. We can meet the needs but must know what they are and have open discussion about them. All parties need to be brought together to explore all aspects not just one singular component. The town and community need to be involved. My company has completed re-use projects and this is achievable.

Harold inquired as to whether the size and population of our town would deter us from success. Ken replied: no, your potential drawing card is tourism and also a big population is coming here.

Ken: Rural development requirements focus on economic development and the need of communities such as Bath and this will be integrated into this study. Examples being: restaurant, satellite from the community college, private business, offices, clinic, etc. I feel there is a market for it.

Peggy: What do you need from us immediately? Ken: Come up with a schedule of activities of what we will be discussing.

Harold inquired about the town giving us 24 months to complete the project.

Ken replied: I feel if we have a plan and are committed within this allotted time this is what is meant. We will be complete the study within six months and if there is genuine interest and everyone is committed then we will find a use.

Surry inquired: Are the town wishes contradictive of the economic statutes?

Ken: Employment opportunities are needed here even for retirement. We also are in Beaufort County, which is a Tier I County, and this is to our advantage.

Peggy: I would like to touch upon funding discussion. Bath Fest will take place on May 21 and we will have a table for presenting items such as prints, Santa's, and new ornaments. We will be taking new memberships and generally educating the public on our focus. Jack Wallace explained Golf Day set for July which he expects will draw 18 teams and possibly \$1500-3000. Possible further advertising opportunities with this event include placing sponsor "names" on the

"holes" which he will coordinate with Ron and Judy. Marti: will need for you to provide a packet to me soon for supplying to possible corporate sponsors who I will target in August for their December funds.

Peggy: We will need to rally the community and bring them under one umbrella for this feasibility study. We, as Bath High School Preservation, will need to move forward and be supportive no matter what other parties decide.

There being no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by Karen Sayer, Acting Secretary.

Date Approved: 6/15/06

Peggy D. Smith  
President

Attest:  
[Signature]  
Secretary