

**Minutes of General Meeting
Bath High School Preservation, Inc.
7:00 p.m., August 31, 2005
110 South Main St., Bath, NC**

Board Members Present: Harold Wayne Cutler, Peggy Smith, Betsy Gray, Melba Edwards, Susan Modlin, Nelda Ormond, Mike Godley, Rick Nittoli, and Jack Wallace.

Members and supporters present: Surry & Dorothy Everett, Gail & Pat Kenefick, Starlon Credle, Marti Buchanan, Jim Cox, Karen & David Sayer.

Invited Guests: Jimmy Latham and Rob Jenner, candidates for Bath Town Council

Harold Wayne Cutler, Chairman, opened the meeting. He recognized guests for the purpose of addressing the group on the upcoming election. He noted that a third candidate, Paul Woolard had also been invited but was not present.

Jimmy Latham introduced himself and stated he was running for Mayor. Although he understood our efforts to preserve Bath High School, he would not promise unconditional support. He also stated that if it did not require the expenditure of tax money to do this and was in keeping with Bath's overall development scheme, he would probably be in favor of it.

Rob Jenner then introduced himself as a candidate for Council. He will run on a platform of new ideas and reconciliation. He is also supportive of our preservation efforts as long as it is reasonable and not a burden on taxpayers.

Susan Modlin gave an update on the status of the deed to Bath High School. The School Board has filed an affidavit of abandonment of the property with the Register of Deeds in favor of the Town of Bath. This was done to remove them as a co-owner of the property and release them from any future liability for the building. They will continue to explore their options to use the remaining property with the Town of Bath and have leased space until the new construction at Bath Elementary is completed.

Peggy Smith reported on continuing discussions with PNC for a meeting with Town Council regarding the plan proposed by their attorney Wayland Sermons, minus the participation of the School Board. She will attend on our behalf along with John Wood of the regional office of the N. C. Department of Archives & History. Myrick Howard, Director of PNC, will be invited to attend the next Town Council to present his vision of proposed plans and uses for the building.

Ms. Smith also presented a comparison of this plan to the one used for the renovations to the Wilkinson School in Belhaven. There were several differences. After discussion it was decided that we would proceed but keep requirements to those approved under the Wilkinson plan. One other objection was in another reversion clause to the Town of Bath if PNC took title but did not succeed with the project. It was felt this would unnecessarily put us back through the same hoops again.

Starlon Credle explained the budget portion of the Wilkinson plan, disbursements, and approvals. She stated that they had no difficulties in getting grant monies released.

Betsy Gray felt that the entire plan was drafted to "set us up for failure". The suggestion was made that we approach the project with completed repairs at our expense and at our own risk. That way we could show we were serious and establish a track record with the Town. The consensus was we need to finalize the costs to stabilize the building and get letters of intent to use or lease space from the interested parties.

Ms. Smith next reported on a grant writing seminar she attended with Susan Modlin hosted by the Golden Leaf Foundation. Based on the information, we would be a natural for approval of funds. We could also partner with the Town for funding to improve the sewer system. This would be a win/win for both parties.

Betsy Gray advised that Frans Van Barrs was donating the profits of his original images of the High School and other area scenes to BHSP. These will be available for sale at Maritime Days. We will have a booth to encourage membership and pledges. Volunteers to staff the event should sign up after the meeting. She also showed us the new brochures and membership letters (copies appended).

There being no further business, Mr. Cutler adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully submitted by Susan Modlin, Secretary.

Date Approved: 6/15/00

Chairman of the Board

Attest:

Secretary