

**Minutes of Board of Director's Meeting  
Bath High School Preservation, Inc.  
7:00 p.m., October, 22, 2007  
Bath Christian Church**

Officers and Board members present: Harold Cutler, Peggy Smith, Betsy Gray, Susan Modlin, Mike Godley, Nelda Ormond, Claudia Alligood, Ron Moore and Jack Wallace.

Members and interested parties present: Joanne Childs, Marti Buchanan, Jim Cox, Karen and David Sayer.

Harold Wayne Cutler, Chairman of the Board presided; Susan Modlin, Secretary.

1. Mr. Cutler called the meeting to order and began with the Pledge of Allegiance. He welcomed those present and asked the attendees to introduce themselves. Ms. Modlin advised the Chairman that there was a quorum present to conduct business.

2. Ms. Modlin read the minutes of the Annual Meeting and Board of Directors Meeting of June 4, 2007. After discussion, there were three items to be corrected. Betsy Gray made a motion, seconded by Jack Wallace, to approve the minutes as amended. The motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

3. Claudia Alligood was recognized and commented on the positive story published in The Washington Daily News about Alumni Day activities and our efforts to restore the school building. A discussion followed and there was general agreement that we need to continue to keep our activities in the press.

4. Peggy Smith was called on to give her President's Report. She reviewed a slide show presentation that she and Karen Sayer gave to the Bath Ruritan Club on October 1, 2007. This highlighted the history of BHSP, timeline of important events, and new energies resulting from the recent window restorations, office renovations and Alumni Day activities. She reported on the success of the annual Golf Tournament and Raffle fundraisers, and advised that the Town of Bath had started their move of meetings and other town activities to the Gym building.

Ms. Smith advised that the county sanitarian had finally completed an inspection of the existing septic system. Based on his favorable report Beaufort County has reissued a septic operating permit for a flow capacity of 1200 gallons per day which is equivalent to the needs of 48 full time employees. The county also stated that the tanks could easily support twice that amount and they would be willing to revise the permit should the need arise. A comment was made that the tanks should probably be pumped prior to reuse.

The next item of her report was to announce the availability of a \$75,000.00 matching grant for building improvements from the State Historic Preservation Office. These funds are targeted for Bath, Beaufort and Northampton Counties. The Golden Leaf Foundation now also has funds available for this purpose that they did not have previously. A discussion followed but general

agreement was that we were not currently in a position to move forward until we had more specific direction from Town Council. Ms. Smith also reported that Bath Town Council had finally appointed a task force to make recommendations on the future adaptive reuse of the building. Members include Claudia Alligood and Surry Everett. The group congratulated these BHSP members on their appointment.

Ms. Smith advised on upcoming events of interest as listed:

Oct. 25th-Annual Preservation North Carolina Conference in Raleigh

Nov. 12th-Bath Town Council

November BHSP Newsletter

Dec. 2nd-Bath Christmas Parade

Dec. 9th-Historic Bath Open House & Reception

Next, Ms. Smith requested we discuss whether we wanted to continue the "Bath Santas" fundraiser. This year our supplier would require us to pay for the basic Santa and needs our order as soon as possible. The discussion centered on the success of prior sales. Several of our supporters are purchasing santas annually. It was generally agreed we would go forward with the 2008 Bath Santa.

Finally, Ms. Smith advised that the curtains from the school office had been cleaned and relined thanks to Betsy Gray. They will be rehung as soon as we get appropriate hardware.

**5.** Marti Buchanan was granted the floor. She advised we had received a "Thank You" note, which she read, from Double Hung Window Restoration for our hospitality while they were here working on our windows. They hope they will be permitted to come back when we are ready to proceed with the next phase of window restoration.

**6.** Harold Cutler shared his reflections on how far we had come since we started in 2005. He stated that listening to all of the reports of our activities he had to ask himself "Did we do all that ?" We had to struggle so hard from the beginning just to save the property, and then for each little step forward, that probably the fight had suppressed his realization of our many successes.

**7.** Jack Wallace requested an update the status of the application to the National Register. Ms. Smith advised that the application had been approved by the SHPO and forwarded to the National Park Service. It is expected they would approve it in November and advise Town Council by their meeting in December. Ms. Modlin also offered an explanation of how the individual property listing could benefit the building including available tax credits for historic property restoration. Ms. Smith suggested that we approach Town Council about having an informal presentation ceremony with press coverage. Discussion followed with general agreement that this request go forward.

**8.** Mr. Wallace then requested that Ms. Smith advise us of ongoing relations with Town Council. Ms. Smith stated that the relationship has greatly improved and that all of our requests to date have been granted. Council has been impressed with our accomplishments and is anxious to see BHSP complete further improvements to the building. Bubs Carson and Elna have been very helpful in coordinating between the groups. John Taylor and Wayland Sermons have also been more supportive, especially after completion of the window restorations. As long as the Town is continued to be free of any liability, they should continue to be supportive.

**9.** Mr. Cutler requested that Mike Godley present his Treasurer's Report. BHSP had receipts of \$15,722.00 and expenditures of \$11,413.00 since May 1, 2007. Operating account balance was \$4,865.00 with \$12,727.00 in the window fund escrow. There was no decline in assets. Mr. Godley pointed out that we needed to focus on membership dues. He has no details on number of memberships or funds collected. Ms. Modlin asked were not memberships intended to be annual? Mr. Cutler replied in the affirmative and stated that the Board needed to appoint a Membership Committee to follow up and advise recommended actions. Mrs. Alligood added an additional comment that the Pirate Alumni Day group had recently repaid the \$500.00 seed money BHSP gave them and that money had not yet been deposited nor was it reflected in the Treasurer's report. There being no further discussion, Mrs. Gray made a motion, seconded by Mr. Wallace, that the Treasurer's Report be approved as submitted. The motion carried by unanimous voice vote. (A copy of the detail report is appended to the minutes).

**10.** Mrs. Gray advised that the "Pirates Revenge" newsletter contains membership renewal reminders listing the various levels of giving. Mr. Wallace suggested we table the membership discussion until spring because we still need an updated roster as requested by Mr. Godley. Mrs. Gray stated we needed to get a copy of the list of attendees at Alumni Day to follow up for new memberships. Ms. Smith requested that both be done and contact information be validated. Mrs. Alligood then made a motion, seconded by Ron Moore, that a Membership Committee be appointed to complete these tasks and start a membership drive to commence in February. The motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

**11.** Mr. Cutler next shared his recollections of the events of Alumni Day. Several others present made comments on feedback received from family, friends and classmates. It was a consensus that all enjoyed the day and supportive of restoration efforts.

**12.** Mr. Cutler called on Ms. Modlin to give a presentation on proposed building improvements with requests for permission of Town Council as needed. A detailed discussion followed with a consensus decision on each item. The "Septic" section was made moot by approvals already noted; the "Electric" section was declined; under "Reconstruction", replacement of the Auditorium entrance porch was deferred until receipt of the report from the Task Force and temporary repair of continued roof leaks added; "Landscaping" was deferred to later in the meeting; "Building Name" was deferred; the "lease" item was felt by Mr. Cutler to be a priority with the addition of request to add furnishings to the principal's office; and the suggested "Fundraising Ball" was referred to the Fundraising Committee. All other items were approved. Mr. Wallace made a motion, seconded by Mr. Moore, that we expend the funds necessary to install window treatments in the office wing. The motion carried by unanimous voice vote. Mr. Moore made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Gray, that we approve the purchase of the recommended exterior replacement doors from M&W Sales plus necessary door hardware not to exceed \$3,000.00 total. The motion carried by unanimous voice vote. (A copy of the detail report is appended to the minutes). There was a further discussion surrounding expectations of our members that if we continue to spend [their] money on improvements that the building will eventually be reopened for some worthwhile purpose. We cannot assume that the Town will ever approve a final plan or move forward with occupancy. The consensus was that Town Council would not have appointed the Task Force if they were not now committed to the project. Mrs. Alligood stated that the Task Force report was due by the April, 2008 Town Council meeting and that she also thought the response would be positive.

**13.** Mr. Godley was granted the floor for the purpose of discussing our website. To date Surrey Everett has been responsible for continued design and maintenance. Because of other commitments, he has not been able to keep the site current. He proposed that we consider hiring a professional website administrator to take over this function. There was a general discussion and consensus that we explore this recommendation. Mr. Godley was to contact interested parties and bring forward a proposal for latter consideration.

**14.** Mr. Cutler requested that Mr. Godley report to the Board/Executive Committee what had been spent from the initial \$5,000.00 budget approved for roof repairs so that if sufficient funds remained, additional repairs could go forward without further action. If current estimates exceed the remainder, then the full Board would have to approve the additional funds.

**15.** Ms. Smith was granted the floor to present a proposed landscaping contract for the 2008 season. Mr. Cutler felt that it was too soon to address this item and wanted other estimates. There was general agreement so action was deferred.

**16.** Mr. Cutler asked volunteers to form a Membership Committee. Ms. Gray and Joanne Childs agreed to form the committee with Mrs. Gray as Chairman. The appointment was approved by unanimous voice vote.

**17.** Nelda Ormond was granted the floor to discuss the need to form a Nominating Committee to suggest candidates to fill the board seats expiring in 2008. A discussion followed and it was the general consensus that the two outgoing board members constitute the Nominating Committee. Mr. Cutler directed Ms. Modlin to confirm to Mrs. Ormond that David Everett was the other outgoing board member and he requested that they bring forth nominations at the board retreat. The appointment was approved by unanimous voice vote.

**18.** Mrs. Gray was granted the floor to discuss the next edition of the newsletter. "Pirates Revenge" is close to being ready to go to press and should be out by November. If anyone has submissions please get them to her as soon as possible. A discussion followed. There was some criticism over the featured pirate column and how the selection for this was made. Some people thought there might be hurt feelings because one or another was chosen or excluded. This will be reevaluated in the future. Also, it was determined that all issues should contain a calendar of events which is already in the present format.

**19.** Mrs. Allgood was granted the floor to present a report on Pirate Alumni Day. The independent Alumni Committee has left over fundraising items in inventory. Some of these are located at the Nameplates store and Marti Buchanan has the rest. Since the Alumni Committee is closing out their activities, they decided to donate these items to BHSP to help our fundraising activities. The committee also wanted to thank us for all that BHSP did to support this important event. The T-shirts were originally priced at \$10.00 and the drink huggies at \$3.00, but we were free to sell them for whatever we felt reasonable since all of the Alumni Day costs had been paid.

**20.** Ron Moore was asked to present his fundraising report. The raffle was less successful this year than in 2006 and fewer tickets were sold. Mr. Godley commented that based on feedback he received it seemed this was impacted by fewer prizes being awarded this year. A discussion of this followed. Ms. Buchanan reported that she already had a donor prize for 2008 if we decided to continue this. Another suggestion was possibly lowering ticket prices. It was also pointed out that the

Bayview Golf Course was closed. Do we want to continue with the Golf Tournament ? The general consensus was that this was worthwhile but that an alternate site would have to be located. The Fundraising Committee was requested to study these issues further and return with a proposal at a later date.

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

Respectfully submitted by Susan Modlin, Secretary.

Date Approved: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chairman of the Board

Attest:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary