



MINUTES
HISTORIC SALUDA COMMITTEE
FRIDAY, MARCH 8, 2024

ATTENDEES: Cindy Tuttle, Nancy Pew, Ammie Weymer, Clara Carter. Billy Shand, Laretta Cook. *Quorum present.*

GUESTS: Karin Spraggs, Diane Helstrom, David Twiggs, Mary Reeves

Karin is an artist who advocates for people with disabilities. She focuses on universal design. David Twiggs is the son of Henry Twiggs who was one of our first oral history interviewees. Both of these guests are interested in preserving Saluda and joining the committee. Mary Reeves is with the Saluda Historic Depot and wanted to make sure they were included in the details of the Home Tour. Cindy assured them they would be on the map and would encourage tour visitors to stop by.

WELCOME: Meeting called to order at 2:10 PM.

MINUTES: Billy made a motion to accept minutes from the November 2023 and February 2024 Minutes. Ammie seconded. The motion passed.

FINANCIAL REPORT: Cindy presented the Finance Report. The current balance is \$5,892.71. Since last month, five books have sold and sponsorships are coming in for the home tour.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- **Oral History** –Cindy reported she has finished Jerry Summey’s full-length interview recorded in 2021. Only a cut from his full interview has been shared up to this point. She reported having learned to do chapters on YouTube. Cindy stated this interview was particularly interesting because Jerry speaks in “Mountain Talk” or “Mountain Brogue.” That made his storytelling that much more interesting.
- **Step Back in History Series** – Topics continue to be asking the State Preservation office to come and discuss the Polk County historic property survey and Historic Districts in Saluda. Cindy noted the Historic District has nothing to do with Registry Zoning. We have discussed Henderson and Columbus Streets. Cindy would like to have someone come and explain this to us.
- **Historic Saluda Home Tour** –

- **Sponsorships** - Laretta reported we have \$6650 in sponsorships. This is great news since this is the first time, we have tried sponsorships. Laretta would like to raise another \$2,000.
- **Poster** – Laretta reported she will have the Marketing Department of her employer, Beverly-Hanks – Alan Tate, to design the poster. Ralph Mayer, local photographer, will be asked to do the photography and art for the poster, if available.
- **Ticket Sales** – Cindy indicated she will get the tickets printed.
- **Painting Raffle** – Cindy displayed a donated painting by the late Bill Ryan which will be used for a raffle during the home tour. Mary Reeves suggested it be taken to the store Starving Artist and have it double-matted and then placed in a protective sleeve. Laretta agreed to contact Bill Ryan’s partner, Jim Boyle to find out more about the painting.
- **Other:**
 - Laretta reported we need volunteers, including docents at each home. We have a dozen volunteers to date.
 - Laretta reported she would like to find a common year with the houses on the tour and then determine what the downtown storefronts may have looked like during those years. This will need to be researched and she is gathering what she can from the property owners. We still need to get the age of the homes from Camilla Luckey and the Chandlers. Josh from the Back Alley Barn has donated a picture of the store before Thompsons.
 - We need to coordinate the tour logistics with the Visitor Center if they are to be our home base. We need to find out if we can sell tickets there.
 - Laretta reported the model townhome for Skyview development will be open in time for the tour.
- **Historical Marker** – Billy reported he plans to place an order for the marker now. The total cost is \$3650. He recommended the Committee put up half that amount. It will take six months to make the marker. Billy requested we authorize the HSC to pay up to \$1800 toward the purchase of the sign. Laretta made a motion, Cindy seconded. Motion passed. Ammie said the Smith family will pay the other half. Billy told the guests the story of the marker.
- **HSC Website**– Action still pending.
- **Crystal Springs (also covers New Business, Working with Planning Board below)**- Cindy reported that on March 5, 2024, there was a joint meeting with the HSC and the Planning Board. (Separate Minutes from the Planning Board are available.) A few city officials, including the mayor, were present. Teddy McNamara, the new owner of Crystal Springs attended via Zoom. Mr. McNamara reported that he would not be burning the house down. He stated he did not realize feelings ran that high over the house. He indicated he has restored two other historic houses. For now, he will just weigh his options and hopes

there may be some leeway with zoning regulations in the future to allow for the property to become income-producing possibly as a multi-housing or Airbnb.

The joint meeting was the first step toward the fulfillment of the Board of Commissioners' motion that we need to collaborate with the Planning Board to prevent situations like Crystal Springs from happening again. At this meeting, there was a discussion about how we can work together. For background, Cindy provided a copy of a letter signed by Martin Anderson, At-Large Member and herself. This letter was presented at the Board of Commissioners' meeting on February 12, 2024, which led to the aforementioned motion. A copy of an email correspondence between Cindy and Steve Orr, City Manager, was shared, clarifying the motion that came out of that BOC meeting.

Cindy reported that her takeaway from the joint meeting with the Planning Board is that the HSC should:

- Identify historic structures.
 - Start with a list and information of all houses that have been on the Historic Saluda Tour of Homes. (Requested by Steve Orr.)
 - Continue to use the Tour of Homes as a means to identify historic structures.
 - Obtain information about the recent Polk County survey of historic properties.
 - Start a discussion about additional historic districts.
 - Continue to research the history of Saluda and teach others. Oral history continues to be a valid tool.
- Be a source to make referrals.
 - Network with the historic preservation experts. Know how to refer to resources and information. Example: Repair of old windows versus replacing them.
- Educate the Community.
 - Workshops and programs. Identify what is needed and wanted. Example: historic preservation covenants and easements. The Planning Board and real estate agents in particular need to be invited.
- Network with other historical societies and partners.
 - Identify who they are. Examples: New museums in Tryon and Asheville, Henderson County Genealogical and Historical Museum, Polk County History Museum, Saluda Historic Depot, etc.
 - Share their programs. Example: Tryon is about to have a workshop series on tax credits for historic properties.

At the joint meeting, a guest from Tryon reported how the city is dealing with historic homes. They are in the early stages of forming a historic commission. Cindy reported that at this point

the Saluda City Manager has reported to her that Saluda is not interested in doing that. Another topic that came up is the confusion that people have between a historic district on the National Register and zoning historic districts. It was agreed there needs to be more education around that.

NEW BUSINESS

- **HSC Official Minutes** – Cindy reported that Pam Waters, City Clerk, has requested copies of the last 5 years of the HSC minutes, which Cindy sent. Over the years, it has been inconsistent with how approved minutes have been delivered to the City. Cindy stated she gave the Clerk before Pam copies of the minutes and Ammie, who has been the past HSC Secretary, stated she used to hand deliver them to City Hall. With all the interest in Crystal Springs, people have started asking for the HSC minutes. This prompted the request for minutes. Pam said eventually they will upload the HSC minutes to the City's website.
- **Working with Planning Board** – See above

CITY REPORT – None

ADJOURN - The meeting was adjourned at 3:45 PM

Next Meeting Date: Friday, April 12, 2024 at 2:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:
Nancy Pew
Secretary, Vice Chair