



MINUTES

FRIDAY, AUGUST 9, 2024

ATTENDEES: Voting: Cindy Tuttle, Nancy Pew, Ammie Weymer, Clara Carter, David Twiggs, Laretta Cook. Quorum present

At-Large: Betsy Burdette, Karin Spraggs

Guests: Ellen Rogers, Elena Robeson, Bruce Jayne, Mary Reeves

WELCOME: Meeting called to order at 2:00 PM

MINUTES: Laretta made a motion to accept the minutes. David seconded. Motion passed.

FINANCIAL REPORT: No report at this time from the City. Donation checks of \$100 to Baptist Church and check of \$200 to Saluda Historic Depot obtained from City. Laretta will take the checks to both the church and will present the check during Train Tales to the Depot next Friday night. The committee is appreciative of the church allowing the use of their parking lot during the home tour and appreciates the support the Depot has provided to the HSC over the years.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- **Oral History/Vlogs** – Tabled. People have agreed to be interviewed. These need to be set up, but other work has taken priority.
- **Step back in History Series** –
 1. Cindy Tuttle reported that finally a series of workshops are coming together to address topics suggested in the past, such as historic preservation basics, tax credits, historic districts on the National Register of Historic Places, architectural surveys, easements and covenants, etc. She is proposing the series to be called “Preserving Saluda.” The first presentation, titled Historic Presentation 101, will also include a public forum or listening session. This will be presented by Jack Thomson with Preservation NC. It will be held on Saturday, September 14, 10AM at the library. During the listening sessions questions will be asked like what do people want to see in Saluda; how are people feeling. What does “Preserving Saluda” mean to you? This will be a safe place to share. Our focus is primarily with the historic properties of Saluda but the Land Trust plays a big part as preservation is not just buildings but lands. Ammie is going to hold an open house immediately after the presentation at the house on Shand Hill. This is the same house that Jack

Thomson recently visited. This will give the public an opportunity to see the kind of properties that deserve to be preserved. Cindy is preparing a flyer for the event. It is hoped that this will be piece of the collaborative effort with the Saluda Planning Board, City of Saluda and other city-wide efforts to preserve Saluda's character.

2. **Other possible topics** – Laretta brought up the subject of Rails to Trails. She had heard discussions about tiny homes, Air BnB's. She feels property owners will be approached. We need to consider what may come up. We need to send a strong message how we feel about Saluda

NEW BUSINESS AGENDA ITEM MOVED FORWARD:

At this time, Cindy asked Bruce Jayne, guest, to speak about the Pace Park Mural. This item was included under New Business, but was moved up in the agenda. Bruce Jayne presented a recommendation for a sign at Pace Park to identify the people in the mural. Bruce has looked into a sign 5' long. It will be made of aluminum sandwich material and attached to the wall. Signature signs quoted a price of \$180. Bruce would like HSC to present the idea to the city council to cover the cost. Martin Anderson (not present but agreed prior to meeting) and Nancy agreed to work with Bruce on the descriptions. They will be presented at the next meeting.

- **2026 Historic Saluda Home Tour** – Laretta indicated it is imperative we announce our intention to hold a 2026 tour. Laretta moved we make a Proclamation, Ammie seconded. Motion passed.

OLD BUSINESS:

- **Committee Terms and Officer Election** – Ammie and Laretta have turned in their applications for term renewal. Once they have been approved by the Saluda Board of Commissioners, then officer elections can be held.
- **Saluda Grade Trail** – Betsy inquired if there have been any meetings of the local committee. The response was none. Betsy recommended Laretta call Gerard Pendergrass since she is a member of the committee. Betsy reported she has been told the Trail group have no clue on railroad easements. It's hard, if not impossible to figure them out. She has heard that the railroad has preserved their rights and the property owners could lose theirs.
- **Appalachian Channel** – They released the last video on YouTube. Each video has been viewed several thousand times.
- **Black History: Reclamation Park, Convict Labor on the Saluda Grade** – Betsy reported there will be a presentation by Ronnie Pepper at 4PM on September 6th at the pavilion. There has been a lot of momentum with Project Manager, Emily Cadmus, Western North Carolina history major. They want to have a trail marker for historic sites and buildings.

Someone is needed to do South Carolina history as many names from the Kingdom of the Happy Land come up. As a side note, Betsy reported Blake's Peak is the last peak in Saluda that doesn't have a house on it. SCLT made an option to purchase offer. It was declined. SCLT owns 20 feet of access. Betsy also reported on the progress of the Sullivan Temple project and park. The Sullivan family want to stabilize the two remaining walls. They need contacts at the State Historic Preservation Office. Cindy will send them contact information. The Sullivan Family is also working on buying the trailer park.

- **Concern over Historic Homes** – Cindy reported the home of D.L. "Daddy" Hart has been given to a local resident. Steve Orr, City Manager, has shared the home is in bad shape. It is unknown if this person will be selling or restoring. Daddy Hart was a store owner, undertaker and contractor. Legend says he took the first strike to start the construction of the railroad to Saluda. He sold caskets in the lower level of his general store located on Henderson Street. Rumor has it that there once was a wall made from coffin wood in the house. It was agreed it might be important if someone reaches out to the current owner to see if they need advice.
- **HSC Merchandise** – The discussion continued regarding the sale of the book Images of America: Saluda. Books sales need to expand around town in Saluda. Since the Depot stopped selling the books there is no current outlet in Saluda other than City Hall that sells them. Cindy reported merchants can buy our books outright for wholesale and get around 50% off retail. Cindy will contact Arcadia Publishing Company representatives for advice as to how to increase sales. Arcadia would be encouraging them to buy the book through Arcadia.
- **Non-Profit Discussion** - Tabled
- **Historical Marker** – Tabled
- **HSC Website** – When is the right time to update? Now? Preserving Saluda may change the identity.

NEW BUSINESS (CONT'D)

- **Phase One Architectural Survey** – This is a project of the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO). Phase One, that has been mentioned in previous meetings, was not approved by the SHPO, so they are starting over. SHPO staff will be visiting Saluda to identify historical homes. Cindy stated this is an excellent first step to identifying future historic districts.

CITY REPORT – None

ADJOURN - The meeting was adjourned at 3:18

Next Meeting Date: Friday, September 13, 2024, at 2:00 p.m. at the Saluda Public Library

General Sharing: You are invited to stay after the meeting to share in "historical conversation".

Respectfully submitted by:

Nancy Pew, Secretary, Vice Chair