

Town of Bath Historic Landmarks Commission

12 January 2023

2:00PM

Town of Bath Municipal Building Council Chambers

Members Present: John Mason, Joyce Jones, Ryan Rebant, Zachary Salman (via telephone), Stephen Harrmison

Also in attendance: Melissa Schod, Trey and Paul Johnsen, Larry Landon, Trish Rudder

Public Official Present: Susan Webster, Town of Bath Council

Guest Speakers: Garreth and Gail Foulds, Elizabet Skinner President of Bath Cemetery Committee, Susan Webster on behalf of the Train Depot Project

Meeting Called to Order: John Mason, 2:00 PM

Minutes from the prior meeting were reviewed by all members, moved to approve by Ryan Rebant, seconded by Joyce Jones and passed.

Treasury report read with account balance of \$16.97.

Guest Speaker: Garreth Foulds

- Shared his experience with renovation two historic properties in the Washing D.C. Capitol Hill District under the guidance of the Capitol Hill Restoration Society, a 501C3 organization of more than a thousand members. This organization was extremely supportive of his project but here oversight did not include any inspections, no plan submittals even though the structures value was close to one million dollars. He encouraged the Town of Bath to implement a similar structure to improve properties and encourage citizens to take pride of ownership in their properties in the historic district. Mr. Foulds went on to share his experience with his purchase of property in Bath, the first commercial historic property renovation to be done in the Historic District and it was not a good or valued experience. Extensive paperwork needed to be done, many inspections and little reward or support was provided. He further stated that the private citizens need to make this a place more people want to live.

Guest Speaker: Susan Webster

- Her vision is that the Town Depot, though owned by the city, could be maintained by the HLC with such outdoor projects as signage, outdoor lighting, outdoor restrooms etc. Possible also be involved in venues, set up rules for usage, provide research and suggestions to the

Town Council. Possibility of a portion of the venue revenue going to the HLC General Fund. Stephen Harmison noted that he is doing some research on window boxes for the Garden Society which maintains the Herb Garden at the depot.

Guest Speaker: Elizabeth Skinner

- She requested consideration to expand the HLC vision to include cemeteries, mausoleums, walls and other properties structures in the Historic District. Though she has not been successful in the past to obtain grant money from SHPO there is renewed interest in the significance of old cemeteries architecture that is unique in Morgan County and the possibility of qualifying for grant money going forward. They have been successful in getting some money from the cities Hotel Motel tax, it was noted by Ryan that in the future HLC could research matching funds for those provided by that organization. The Olde English cemetery has gotten some national and international attention for the refurbishing of General Barstow's headstone, there will be a public dedication Memorial Day weekend.

Topics Discussed from the floor:

- John shared HLC vision of education the public about the Historic District and proposed sharing information to realtors, bankers, utility companies who work directly with new owners. Paul Johanson suggested a handout showing where contributing structures are located. Zach Salman will design a prototype pamphlet in PDF for review by the HLC by the end of January.
- Further discussion of a 5013C organization similar to The Capitol Hill Restoration Society which would help guide property owners to helpful information and resources. Larry Landon noted that the historic property owners need to be educated regarding eligibility of grants, etc.
- .

On-going Business:

- 1st Quarter Goals.
 - Researching and applying for grants available to the HLC.
 - Obtain additional training for HLC members
 - Research and apply for grant funding.

NOTE: In meeting on January 11, 2023 regarding the CLG Training Camp. possible additional funding offered by Washington County (Meghan Jenkins) who will sponsor a CLG application for collaborative training in Maryland's grant round in February.

 - Revenue needed to boost the current treasury account.
- 2nd Quarter Goals.
 - Public education.
 - Improve and upgrade Historic plaques.
 - Contact new property owners who may want to purchase historic plaques.
- Next meeting date February 16th.
- Motion to Adjourn: R. Rebant, seconded by J. Jones, carried 2:50 PM