



MINUTES

FRIDAY, APRIL 12, 2024

ATTENDEES: Cindy Tuttle, Nancy Pew, Ammie Weymer, Clara Carter, David Twiggs, Laretta Cook. At Large Member: Karin Spraggs (Quorum Present)

Guests: Kristin Cozza, Lynn Cass, Elena Robson, Dan Gilmore, Gerard Pendergrast, Tara Schools

WELCOME: Meeting called to order at 2:05 PM

MINUTES: Ammie made a motion to accept minutes from the March meeting. Laretta seconded. Motion passed.

FINANCIAL REPORT: Cindy reported a balance of \$10,694.48. This represents significant sponsors for the Historic Saluda Home Tour.

New Business

- Saluda Grade Trail – Kristin Cozza
Cindy moved this topic up to allow Kristin time for a full presentation. Several of the guests in attendance represented the Saluda Community Land Trust (SCLT). Cindy started by explaining to Kristin a little about the work of the HSC. Kristin reported she represents Conserving Carolina which is a land trust that has protected over 48,000 acres, primarily in Henderson, Polk, Transylvania, and Rutherford counties in N.C. and the Landrum, S.C. area. She also worked on the Ecusta trail. The Saluda Grade Trail is spearheaded by a coalition of three nonprofit partners in North and South Carolina that share a commitment to serving our communities and providing places for outdoor recreation. These are Conserving Carolina; PAL: Play. Advocate. Live Well; and Upstate Forever. Brochures on the trails were handed out. Kristin indicated that Conserving Carolina wants to get the expertise of locals to tell stories about the railroad. Gerard Pendergrast with SCLT reported there is a Rail to Trail committee being established to spearhead the work of Saluda as a collaborator with this project. Gerard asked Cindy that someone from our group be picked to be a member of this committee. A variety of topics were shared among the attendees such as railbanking, concerns of land owners and right of ways. Gerard reported statistics show there is less crime when a rails to trails comes to an area. Kristin confirmed that the Saluda Grade Trail will be created through a federal “railbanking” program that allows an inactive rail corridor to be used as a trail until such a time that the route is needed again for rail transportation. Laretta expressed concern decreased privacy of property owners. Her property on the river is

frequently the site of uninvited visitors. The idea of creating a native plant barrier has been floated. Laretta asked what is the surface of the trail. Kristin reported it is a composite on the flat areas but concrete is being considered on the steep grade. She said the trail is an open book right now. There is even talk of connecting to horse trails. While the deal has been completed up to this time, the final financials are not settled yet. At large member, Karin Spraggs, reported of her involvement with a trail that took 18 years to complete. Cindy asked that the Historic Committee be involved, especially as it relates to history. Karin was thanked for her presentation.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- **Oral History** – Cindy reported that no new recordings had been made, but that recently she uploaded to YouTube the oral history film documentary, “Home, Hearth and History: Stories of Old Saluda.” The project was made in 2011 and she thought it might be nice to share it. It is available to be viewed for free, but copies of the DVD are still available for sale.
- **Step back in History Series** – Tabled. But it was agreed that a series of preservation workshops will be offered in the future.
- **Historic Saluda Home Tour – June 8, 2024** – Laretta Cook gave a detailed report of her progress with the tour. She provided a handout listing all the homes and a list of sponsorships to date in the amount of \$8200 Laretta stated her marketing company at the real estate firm will do the layout for the poster. Tickets will be \$25 and ticket sales locations are being worked on. Currently, we know they will be for sale at the Saluda Historic Depot and Beverly Hanks/Allen Tate Real Estate office on Main Street. Cindy stated she was unsure if the City will sell tickets, but will inquire. Laretta reported that the donated painting by the late Bill Ryan will be raffled beginning May 18th at the Saluda Arts Festival. It will be visible at the Beverly Hanks/Allen Tate Real Estate office. The committee agreed that raffle tickets will be \$10 each or 3 for \$20. Laretta stated that Jim Boyle, once partner to Bill Ryan, informed her he thought the painting was of the Pearson Falls area. Cindy introduced Dan Gilmore who is a professional photographer who has agreed to assist with photography as needed during the event. Laretta reported that the Garden Club is still planning to do the flowers. Laretta would like to create a parallel between the homes included on the tour and downtown Saluda. This could be done by finding photographs depicting Saluda at a certain point in time. Laretta suggested 1924. The committee commended Laretta on the great job that she is doing.

Old Business

- **Historical Marker** – Table. Bill Shand absent.
- **Current Committee Terms** – Cindy expressed delight in having all 7 seats for voting members filled and that there is only one opening for at-large members. Cindy handed out a current committee roster.

- **Crystal Springs Follow-up** – Everyone was happy that the committee had helped to delay the destruction of Crystal Springs. It was hoped the new owners would properly preserve the old home. It was also agreed that the HSC needs to continue be the spokespersons for the importance of historic preservation. The tour of homes is one great tool to bring attention to how impactful preservation can be.
- **HSC Website** - Tabled

NEW BUSINESS (Continued)

- **The Appalachian Channel** – Cindy added a new agenda item here, with committee approval. Cindy has invited the popular YouTube Channel, The Appalachian Channel to come to Saluda to film on May 10 & 11. John Ward is the owner of that channel. He will focus on MA Pace Store, Thompsons Store and Ward’s Grill. Cindy invited everyone to come out and be prepared to be interviewed, if they are interested.

CITY REPORT – None

ADJOURN – David Twiggs made a motion to adjourn. Laretta seconded. Motion passed. The meeting was adjourned at 3:45 p.m.

Next Meeting Date: Friday, May 10, 2024 at 2:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

Nancy Pew
Secretary, Vice Chair
&
Cindy Tuttle, Chair