

Claiborne Association Board
February 9, 2023

In Attendance: Jim Richardson, Megan McCoy, Phil Sayre, Terry Babb, Kristen Lycett, Mike Kuperberg, Martha Hamlyn, Kirke Harper

Welcome and Minutes Approved

Zoom will cut out in 40 minutes so just log back in to continue. Jim moved to accept January minutes, second by Phil and minutes approved. Next meeting March 9 zooming at 7 PM.

Treasurer's Report – Megan McCoy

Checking: \$13,197.67 with 1 outstanding invoice of \$480 for septic pump (only ½ full)

Match Account: \$21,245.84

Money Market: (switched to CD 15 month at 3%)

- Megan said that a letter came from Bay Country Security that someone would be coming to check our security. Jim explained that under previous board (Mary or Rob?) Bay Country Security installed smoke and heat detectors with a cell phone monitoring system in Cambridge. If something detected they would call Kirke or Rob. Jim will check on this to see if the contact name/numbers should be changed.
- Jim also noted that all the fire extinguishers have now been recharged.

Endowment Committee – Phil Sayre

- Megan just received letter from William Blair Investment that the appointment of Leslie Smith is complete.
- Phil said that about 1-1/2 years ago this fund was at a high of \$89,157. It went down to almost \$70,000 and currently is \$79,517 so it's heading back in the right direction.

Building Committee

- Generator has been delivered but not yet hooked up.
- Stage lighting is on hold at the moment and should be a summer project.
- Jim has 6 new engraved bricks to add to the front walk.

Program Committee – Martha Hamlyn

- Bingo Night is scheduled for February 11. Masking is now optional.
- Program Committee is working with Busy Graham and Talbot County Arts Counsel on a grant for a series of 4 concerts. Gerdan was the 1st of 4. It is worth about \$1,000 or \$250 each concert. There is still a charge but with the grant we can get a higher level performance without charging more for attendance. Next concert is February 24, a duo from Nova Scotia "Mommas Broke".

Long Range Planning Task Force – Kirke Harper

Kirke reported that they have had 2 meetings – Kirke, Mary Gregorio, Libby Moose, Jennifer Shea and Jim is ex-officio member.

- First they did a SWAT of strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, threats. Then looked at focus areas for the future (1) financial stability (2) stability of property (3) program stability (4) organization. Next will update mission, vision and values statement. They are just getting

started but plan to come back with a presentation to the board and then to the community with a survey of the ideas.

- Financial stability goal is becoming sustainable enough that we don't worry/fundraise every year to meet normal expenses. Donor funds would be raised for physical improvements and not operating expenses. It was mentioned that the goal of the endowment fund was to get it to a point that it could provide enough to cover operating expenses.
- There are a couple of ideas and opportunities coming up now before the plan is presented. First, Libby Moose has volunteered to be a Development Director for 1 year and hire a fundraising consultant to develop capital campaign material and raise money. We would direct what the money is for and how much to raise – increase the endowment for example. Second is the situation/opportunity of the property next door coming up for sale soon and the possibility of acquiring it for much needed parking and rental. This is the type of thing where a capital campaign could be done to raise money.
- Another opportunity identified by Jennifer Shea is Maryland Heritage grants ((MHAA). Kirke spoke to them about interpretive signage at the landing. Kristen mentioned that Talbot County Tourism, Cassandra VanHooser, is talking about getting grant money for this type of thing at all the landings. Kirke has filed a “letter of intent” that has no commitment on our part, to apply for a grant by March 31. We can get assistance from MHAA and Cassandra.
- Some discussion and comments.
 - Do we want more events to attract outside Claiborne (like our Friends of Claiborne membership category) – do we want to make it bigger than it is.
 - How would interpretive signs fit with our by-laws. Push back from community about bringing more people into the town. It's meant to be for the benefit of the community. If the county wants to do signs at the landing, let them apply for grants. Signage is the job of the parks department and we wouldn't have to apply and then manage the grant.
 - Concern that property next to the hall could come up as early as March. No sense discussing if we don't want to widen our circle. Long range committee discussion was that it was felt we need more/better parking and we could have bigger events – but parking is a big issue now even for the current use of the hall. If someone else buys the property our parking could be restricted even more.
 - There are a lot of questions to consider beyond just the cost of the property. Kristen pulled up Zillow that shows \$195,000 to \$250,000 but that seems high for property condition. What timeline are we under? Could we have a right of first refusal. Renny is the best contact with current owner.
 - Kristen asked if the community bought the property what would the purchase look like – can funds be raised to purchase outright. Under the by-laws Claiborne is not authorized to have any debt. Would have to be some other person or organization purchasing and donating to us or donating the funds for purchase.
- For tonight, Jim suggested he will send Libby a letter of assurance that we support and appreciate her offer to be the Development Director and ask for her ideas of what could be reasonably funded during that year. Jim will draft and share with the board.
- In the meantime, everyone think beyond just parking about some other use/benefit (or not a benefit).

Future Fundraising

Mike shared conversation with Lynn Cockey Marr offering to plan a “Claiborne Carnival” fundraising event. If we want to do something like this during the summer she needs to start planning it now. Kristen suggested tying it to some reason to celebrate Claiborne history or community – like timing of the last ferry or the railroad – waiting for the second coming of the ferry – Claiborne Day. Martha said the Program Committee will talk to Lynn.

New/Old Business

Volunteer opportunity list is almost ready for posting in the hall.

Martha will talk to Pat and see if Kristen’s Clarion can be sent on a separate list since it’s not getting to her on the group list.

Next Meeting: March 9, 7:00 PM

Adjourned approximately 8 PM