

Mathews County VA250 Committee
Monthly Board meeting
September 28, 2023
Mathews Memorial Library

Chairman Fred Lyon called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m. at Mathews Memorial Library. In attendance were: Fred Lyon, Sandy Warhol, Joe Syslo, Reed Lawson, Bobby Dobson, Tom Edwards, Sharon Frye, Angie Ingram, Tom Karow, Kat Larkin, Martha McCartney, John Priest and Dee Russell. Absent were Becky Barnhardt, Hunter Owens and Leslie Search. Fred introduced and welcomed newest member Angie Ingram. Mike Cecere and Michael Rhodes were guests. The minutes of the August 25, 2023, meetings were approved on a motion by Tom E., seconded by John.

Report on Cricket Hill

John, Cricket Hill subcommittee chair, introduced guests Mike Cecere, commander of The 7th Virginia Regiment of the Continental Line, and Michael Rhodes, chairman of the Virginia Richard Henry Lee Chapter SAR. The gentlemen described their individual organizations and announced plans to commemorate The Battle of Cricket Hill. The celebration will commence with the Boston Tea Party in 2024, continue with The Battle of Great Bridge in December, 2025, and conclude with the end of the war in 2031. Local organizations will be encouraged to visit the Virginia SAR website for ideas on ways to celebrate. Colonial Seaport Foundation (John Collamore) in Deltaville will partner in 2026 with 'Luna', a replica 18th Century coastal trading sloop.

Ideas in discussion:

- In 2026 – Thursday, July 9th at Morningstar – tours of 'Luna' and cannon firing
- Friday, July 10th – movie night at Gwynn's Island Civic Center, colonial tavern and games for children
- Saturday, July 11th – an accurate (as possible) ship to shore battle in the morning; encampment and battle demonstrations in the Civic Center field in the afternoon and Independence Ball that evening, also at the Civic Center

Funding needs will include unit stipends for which MCVA250 will apply. John remarked that this is an opportunity to get the community involved in tracing ancestors whether patriots, loyalists and enslaved people. Obstacles include limited space for parking and for spectators on both sides of Milford Haven. Offsite parking with school bus transport will be necessary. Engaging area landowners will be needed. Michael Rhodes will be the contact person with Tina Minor of Morningstar Marina.

Suggestions:

- Sandy – live television for the battle re-enactment; statewide PR
- Kat – develop a plan to deal with pleasure boaters; close down Hole in the Wall boat ramp and Morningstar; enlist a Coast Guard Auxiliary person for the board
- Dee – develop an app for the commemoration

Sharon -- provide brochures for the weeklong events

Financial Report

Mathews County BOS, at the September 27, 2023, meeting, approved the Bylaws and gave permission for the committee to set up an account through the county to receive tax-deductible donations.

Project Report

Music -- Sandy reported on music alternatives. The middle school cannot provide a fife and drum corps. Mark Givens of MHS will be contacted. Special dates in the near future are the Christmas Parade and May Faire next May. David Shuber was mentioned as an excellent resource. Kat volunteered to contact him. The Wish List includes: Colonial music concerts, fifes and drums exhibitions (Fifes & Drums of York Town, Colonial Williamsburg Fifes & Drums), the Community Orchestra in concert, military band concert (US Army Training and Doctrine Command Band -- Bobby will contact) and Court House Players performance (Dee will contact).

2023 Christmas Parade -- Joe reported on plans for the parade. Court House Players will walk as Colonial characters. He is seeking horses, a carriage and holders for the Mathews County VA250 banner. The parade subcommittee is Sandy, Kat, Dee and Joe, approved on a motion by Sandy, seconded by Sharon.

Museum Bus -- Fred reported the schedule for the statewide touring museum will be set in October. He suggested Mathews collaborate with Gloucester and Middlesex VA250 committees to get the bus to our area.

Communications

Establishing a Mathews County VA250 Instagram account is recommended to be rolled out the first part of 2024. A Facebook account will be considered but with no comments allowed. Dee will tackle social media presence with Sandy managing. Kat was thanked for including MCVA250 in the latest Visitor Center online newsletter. Joe will continue working with Judi Green on the committee presence on the county website.

Research

The Research Committee of Martha, Becky and Dee has been asked to bring two ideas for research projects to the next meeting. Revolution of Ideas is the statewide theme for the VA250 commemoration.

Grants

Grant money is available through VA250, Virginia Humanities and Virginia Commission for the Arts. The Cricket Hill Committee is asked to have ideas for grant applications ready for the next cycle the first of the year. Grants can be requested for logistical support, researchers, exhibits, presentations, publications, movie making, etc. The revised letter to organizations encouraging them to plan events, activities and commemorations will be sent as soon as the checking account is in place.

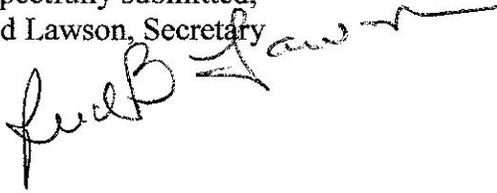
Announcements

Committee member Leslie Search's husband passed away September 26, 2023. She wishes to remain on the committee. The MHS Marching Blue Devils will have an exhibition on Friday,

September 29th at Ken Brown Field at 6 p.m. Mathews Historical Museum will have a tea/lecture on female attire through time on October 15, 2023, at the facility on Main Street. Because Rev War fashions are included, the information has been sent to the statewide committee for inclusion on their website.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:30 p.m. The next meeting of MCVA250 will take place on October 26, 2023, at 3 p.m. at Mathews Memorial Library.

Respectfully submitted,
Reed Lawson, Secretary

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Reed Lawson", written in black ink over the typed name.