

Historical Society of West Point Planning Committee

Minutes of 24th March 2009

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by Chairman Mark Neale.

Opening prayer by Mark Neale.

Minutes: see attached

Treasurer's report: see attached

Members present: Mark Neale, Bill Palmer, Cathy Price, Beverly Branch, Frances Thornton, Alice Reid, Sandra Willis, Gary Smith, Will Addison and Ty Bland.

I. Committee reports:

Bill Palmer, publication chairman, spoke about his upcoming April newsletter reporting on the November 1880 dockside fire in West Point. The fire was a result of the devastating explosion of the ship "Shirley" late salvaged and renamed "West Point". The article will be another fine informational bite of West Point history that all will surely enjoy reading.

Cathy Price – no report.

Beverly Branch – still in touch with Will Balderson as a speaker for one of our meetings.

Sandra Willis – recently submitted application for the HSWP to the Chamber of Commerce.

Gary Smith – continues to update our WEB site and requests that we get the word out for participation to update our site with information pertaining to the various homes shown and listed on the WEB.

II. Old Business:

Ty Bland discussed the recent turn of events involving the communications tower now occupying the town alley right of way near the corner of 12th Street and the rail yard. The West Point Town Council is reconsidering whether to approve the town's alley as a right of way for the misplaced tower or make the involved company **CitySwitch** move the tower onto its own property some 10-12 feet away. The HSWP had previously objected to the presence and construction of this tower in its entirety and had sent a letter to **Trileaf** [Project #300389] addressing these concerns. **Trileaf** was the company selected by **CitySwitch** to conduct an environmental site assessment prior to proceeding with this project. Due to misinformation given to the Virginia Historical Society by **Trileaf**, the HSWP committee agreed that they would send a representative to object to the tower and suggest that it not be placed in or near the historical area of the town as it is presently located. President Mark Neale will speak for the HSWP.

III. New Business:

Town Manager Trent Funkhouser has asked the HSWP to again give its help to the upcoming Chesty Puller Run this June 2009. Fund Raising Committee Chair Beverley Branch will again head this project up and will be in touch with Mr. Funkhouser.

The HSWP Committee will ask that the new Public Relations Chairperson Robin Lawson lend her support to encourage the public to interact with our WEB site by providing information about the various home sites listed. Also it was felt that printing small excerpts form the many articles of interest in our WEB site about the town would be of great interest to the public and would be a good way to keep the HSWP name in view.

Our next Quarterly Meeting will be Sunday April 19th at 3:00 PM. Our next planning meeting is scheduled for the fourth Tuesday on June 23rd at 7:00 PM. Both meetings will be held at the WPBC.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Mark Neale
Acting Secretary

Notes for town council meeting this Monday reference tower

1. HS of VA given wrong information by construction company
2. Company has not dealt in good faith with the community
3. HSWP is opposed to the tower so close to our community when it has plenty of other location that can serve it as well.
4. Since this is a commercial money making proposition it should not be at the town's cosmetic expense.