

**Sugar Hill Historic Preservation Society Meeting**  
**Wednesday, August 19, 2020 7:00 P.M.**  
**City of Sugar Hill City Hall**  
**Meeting Minutes**

**Approval of the Agenda**

Kathryn Baskin convened the meeting at 7:04 p.m. She called for a motion to approve the agenda. Stephanie Isaacs made a motion to approve the agenda. Ryckie Fernandez seconded the motion. The agenda was approved unanimously.

The following members, volunteers, and guests were in attendance:

<b>NAME</b>	<b>TITLE</b>
Kathryn Baskin*	Board Member/Chairman
Stephanie Isaacs*	Board Member/Vice Chairman
Ryan Butts	Board Member
Varessa Butts	Volunteer
Charlie Butts	Volunteer
Joann Burel	Board Member/Treasurer
Ryckie Fernandez	Board Member
Bill Harting	Board Member
Kathy Harting	Volunteer
Kim Landers	City Liaison
Margaret Neal*	Board Member
Darrell Pruitt	Board Member

The following members were absent:

<b>NAME</b>	<b>TITLE</b>
Tiffany Hale Carter*	Board Member
Chris Walker	Board Member
Brandon Hembree	Board Member/City Council, Post 1

\*Indicates committee chair

Kathryn Baskin stated that there are plans in motion to bring in a speaker for next month's meeting, and that Brandon Hembree has been working on this. She told the members that there is a business in Suwanee that buys up historical properties/cemeteries to protect them and she hopes that they would be able to be our first speaker (Georgia Piedmont Land Trust). They purchased the property at the Calloway Cemetery and other properties and put them in a trust. Kathryn Baskin indicated she would like input from the society members on their interests and topics/speakers. She commented the Society will attempt to line speakers up for the rest of the year to help build interest in the community. Society members should think about this and email Kathryn Baskin.

**Approval of Meeting Minutes**

Kathryn Baskin called for a motion to approve the July 15, 2020 meeting minutes. Bill Harting made a motion to approve the minutes and Ryan Butts seconded the motion. The minutes were approved unanimously.

**Treasurer's Report**

Joann Burel indicated there have been no expenditures for the society this year.

## **Committee Chair Reports**

**Museum Committee** –Kathryn Baskin indicated that Tiffany Hale Carter was unable to attend the meeting. Kathryn Baskin stated Chris Walker contacted her regarding the saddle for the museum. He had been storing the saddle in his garage and discovered that it was covered in mold. Chris Walker indicated that he has a friend that has a leather shop or works with leather and is going to see if they can clean it up. Ms. Baskin commented that it will be need to be placed in a climate controlled space until the museum is opened. She said that she had spoken with Brandon Hembree about the need to find a good place to store the saddle until the museum opened and he indicated that the saddle can be stored at the City Hall archive room, which is secured, and climate controlled. Kathryn Baskin stated the society needs to find a location that is climate controlled for archive materials.

**Research Committee** –Stephanie Isaacs indicated the committee is still waiting on direction from the museum committee to zero in on topics and complete verbiage for the artifacts. She suggested following a family to showcase and make as an exhibit. There are a lot of families that could be highlighted. Brandon Hembree mentioned getting a uniform for Charlotte Howerton for WWII and have an exhibit showcased for her. An option is to purchase these uniforms off eBay.

**Scholarship Committee** – Kathryn Baskin suggested having a Zoom Committee Meeting in the next couple of weeks to kick off our scholarship for this year and asked Ryckie Fernandez to coordinate and put on his schedule.

**Digital Archives Committee** – Margaret Neal did not have anything additional to report for archives other than Kathryn Baskin indicating the that Georgia Humanities grant will be open at the end of the month. Kathryn stated she's had conversations with Robyn Adams with the city to work out some details. The society is working with the city to determine what the city has already applied for and looking at the guidelines for the grant that will come out at the end of August to put this back in motion. The Solar Box is expensive (base price \$3,350.00) so a grant will be needed. Stephanie Isaacs has had conversations about doing a QR code and using that to connect the code to the APP, Kathryn Baskin suggested using with a brochure, this will need looking into more as well as the cost for the APP.

**Cemetery Committee** – Stephanie Isaacs indicated she would like to work with Brandon Hembree on the Great Days of Service which will be very different this year. She stated it will be a collection of items. Stephanie indicated she has spoken with Mercy Montgomery with the city to determine exactly what "essential" items will need to be collected.

Varessa Butts indicated the Sugar Hill cleanup day will be next week.

Kathryn Baskin indicated that she had asked committee chairmen to send emails with the topics to be discussed at each meeting so they could be attached to the minutes. Brandon Hembree mentioned that Mike Reilly had contacted the city about metal detecting city properties before they are sold. Mr. Reilly said that he would donate items of significance that he found to the society. Stephanie Isaacs indicated they are working on a plan for this.

**Budget Committee** – Kathryn Baskin indicated there was nothing to report, all budget items were reaffirmed at the last meeting.

## **Old Business**

Kathryn Baskin indicated that the next historical marker will be for the Southern Red Oak Tree. The order for the marker (\$2,350.00) was placed on August 4, 2020 and will take 12 weeks for delivery. The tree is on the Georgia Tree Council's Register for Historic and Landmark Trees.

Brandon Hembree has spoken with Tim Schick about the Historical School marker, Broadstone apartment project has approved the marker to be placed on their side near the pergola on the other side of the pocket park at W. Broad Street and Church Street. Also, Todd Walls is building a replica of the old school for the little free library. This will be located next to the marker which is a better location and will be more visible in the park area.

Bill Harting asked about the engraving of the markers at the cemetery and asked where the society is with this. Stephanie Isaacs indicated she had an opportunity to speak with Lanier High School and that they have an idea to use different countertop products like what is used with the school. The school has the etching material to do this; she just needs to follow-up with him.

Varessa Butts indicated the Sweep the Hooch is coming up this weekend, they have lowered the volunteer numbers on the website because they are expecting walk-ups. Varessa Butts indicated they are going to make this an annual collaboration. Forty football players from Lanier High School will be coming to clean up tires from the property across from Gary Pirkle Park. The Gwinnett Department of Water Resources, Varessa Butts, Taylor Anderson, and Brandon Hembree are all posting on social media about this event.

Varessa Butts indicated that someone brought her a box of old pictures from when the dam was built that was at the Shoal Creek Filter Plant also known as the Lanier Filter Plant-Lanier Water Park. She will get them to the society to be scanned and see if anyone knows who may have information on the pictures.

Kathryn Baskin stated that Phyllis Davis who has relatives tied to Sugar Hill and its history and a member of the Gwinnett Historical Society, contacted her about nominating the Sugar Hill Historical Society group for the Gwinnett Preservation Council preservation award. She is not sure when this will be announced. Phyllis has some books and other materials to be scanned and donated and will be getting the materials to the society.

Stephanie Isaacs indicated she had some business with the Sugar Hill Church and was speaking with Beth Sudderth. Beth has donated some of the burned bricks from the Church when it was located at the Town Green.

The unveiling of the historic marker for the Train Wreck will be this Sunday at 1 pm. Varessa Butts has arranged for Zach Brown from the Sugar Hill Church to sing the Johnny Cash Song "Ben Dewberry's Last Ride. The location of the marker will be down by the RaceTrac located off Alton Tucker Boulevard. Once ALL the markers are installed there will be a trail of markers located in the downtown area for viewing.

Kathryn also reminded society members to keep Chris Walker's grandmother in hospice in your thoughts and prayers, as well as Tiffany Hale Carter who's recovering from surgery.

**New Business**

Kathryn Baskin indicated that she purchases her D2 from a company called Atlas Preservation. They sent an email about a 48 state tour where they will go to historic cemeteries across the country and give demonstrations on how to clean, repair, and preserve markers using the D2 solution and a product called Elephant Snot. A demonstration in Georgia will be held in Macon at the Rose Hill Cemetery on Tuesday afternoon, September 29<sup>th</sup>. The event is free and pre-registration is not required. Kathryn Baskin contacted them and they have offered to come and give a personal workshop/instruction for Sugar Hill. Kathryn indicated she would see when she could set something up.

There being no further discussion, Kathryn Baskin called for an adjournment. Bill Harting made a motion to adjourn. Ryan Butts seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 7:44 p.m.