

**Sugar Hill Historic Preservation Society Meeting
Virtual Meeting via Microsoft Teams
Wednesday, October 21, 2020, 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 PM. She called for a motion to approve the agenda. Stephanie Isaacs made a motion to approve the agenda. Joann Burel seconded the motion. The agenda was approved unanimously.

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

NAME	TITLE
Kathryn Baskin*	Board Member/Chairman
Ryan Butts	Board Member
Varessa Butts	Volunteer
Joann Burel	Board Member/Treasurer
Tiffany Hale Carter*	Board Member
Bill Harting	Board Member
Brandon Hembree	Board Member/City Council, Post 1
Stephanie Isaacs*	Board Member/Vice Chairman
Kim Landers	City Liaison/Secretary
Margaret Neal*	Board Member
Darrell Pruitt	Board Member
Ane Mulligan	Guest
Carol Hassell	Speaker, Georgia Piedmont Land Trust, Ex. Director
Jed King	Guest
Jerry T. Oberholtzer	Guest

The following members were absent:

NAME	TITLE
Chris Walker	Board Member
Ryckie Fernandez	Board Member

*Indicates committee chair

Approval of Meeting Minutes

Kathryn Baskin called for a motion to approve the meeting minutes from September. Brandon Hembree made a motion to approve the minutes. Bill Harting seconded the motion. Motion approved unanimously.

Councilman Brandon Hembree introduced the evening's speaker, Carol Hassell, Executive Director, Georgia Piedmont Land Trust. Brandon Hembree indicated he had previously heard Carol Hassell give a presentation at either the Georgia Conservancy or Georgia Trust for Public Lands. He noted that he had been actively involved with the two groups on the Chattahoochee River Lands Greenway proposal for our community as well as communities along the Chattahoochee River. Councilman Hembree indicated he was very impressed with the Piedmont Land Trust and its mission to preserve greenspace and historical assets. One of the assets they have assumed responsibility for in Sugar Hill is the old Calloway Cemetery.

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Carol Hassell gave a PowerPoint presentation for the goals of the Georgia Piedmont Land Trust, The Calloway-Garner Cemetery, and other Georgia Public Land Trust projects.

Carol Hassell indicated that the previous presentation that Brandon mentioned in his introduction was provided by the Georgia Conservancy.

Highlights of her presentation included:

- Why it is important to conserve land and what happens when you do not conserve land. Referenced Doug Tallamy, University of Delaware, Department of Entomology and Wildlife Ecology, Professor of Entomology who has conducted studies for a number of years on what happens when land is not conserved and used for other purposes. Discussion also held on who benefits from Land Conservation.
- Who protects the Land – Government, Individuals, and certain nonprofits.
- Explained the Georgia Piedmont Land Trust and what they do.
 - Founded in 1998, private non-profit organization.
 - Exclusive to permanent land preservation in northern half of Georgia.
 - Currently 2,200 acres of lands preserved all with a diverse range of landscapes and conservation projects.
 - Methods of protection include taking title, holding conservation easement, and in single instance as Trustee.
- Calloway-Garner Cemetery – GPLT agreed to accept trustee in 2002.
 - Research included different spellings in the Calloway name (Caloway, Callaway-Calaway).
 - Enclosed by a stack stone wall and an iron gate at the entrance.
 - Property was originally 2 acres; later when Buford Dam Road was widened DOT took some of the property; after that Suwanee Dam Road was widened and more of the property was taken by DOT; and now the area encompasses about 1 acre.
 - On the 1-acre site in 1923 an old one room school named “Whiteoak School” was located on the property with 20 students enrolled. References: Educational Survey of Gwinnett County compiled for the Georgia Department of Education by M.L. Duggan, Rural School Agent. Today the only remains from the school is some piles of rubble where the foundation was located.
- GPLT’s other properties under conservation and being worked on include:
 - Kettle Creek Battlefield easement, 180 acres, near City of Washington in Wilkes County.
 - Lost Mountain, 150 acres, Dallas Highway, Cobb County, another battlefield.
 - Monastery of the Holy Spirit, 363 acres, Rockdale County.
 - Wahoo Creek, 107 acres Coweta County.
 - Mulberry Fields, 0.75 acres in DeKalb County.

Carol Hassell thanked SHHPS, the Gwinnett Historical Society, and the Suwanee Creek DAR all for helping to restore the Calloway-Garner cemetery and making it a special place. She added that the GPLT is grateful for the care and attention since they are a volunteer organization. People who are interested and care about their communities are vital to their organization.

Jed King asked about the old school at the Calloway Cemetery property referencing the survey compiled by M.L. Duggan. He asked what the GPLT had because he could not find where it was

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digitized yet. Carol Hassell indicated she suspects it has not been digitized. A former board member for GLPT researched and obtained a copy of the article from Gwinnett Historical Society, most information gained from the early days has not been digitized. Kathryn Baskin stated she is the secretary for Gwinnett Historical Society and that they are not open to the public yet, but newspapers have been digitized for Gwinnett County and are searchable.

Carol Hassell stated there is a possibility that some of the state education records were digitized, that report she mentioned was specifically for a state census for schools and was not a local document. Brandon Hembree indicated that he recently found it digitized, and records the teacher, inventory of the school, and various other things. Brandon Hembree indicated he will try and locate and distribute to members. Carol Hassell indicated she would love to have this information as well.

Brandon Hembree asked Carol Hassell if someone has an interest in a historic property or home, how would they go about working with the GPLT to figure out their options to protect it? Carol Hassell stated there is a process to evaluate for GPLT to take on a conservation project. They are not equipped to deal with historic buildings and apprehensible to taking on a property with a historic building unless someone else is able to manage the structure. She added that GPLT are not historians.

Kathryn Baskin thanked Carol Hassell for her presentation and asked if she would be willing to share her PowerPoint presentation with SHHPS. Carol Hassell indicated she would send to Kim Landers and indicated she hopes to continue to work with SHHPS in the future.

Kathryn Baskin indicated that this is the end of the special presentation. She invited visitors to stay for the business session to follow.

Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer's report was presented by Joann Burel. She reported that there have been no expenditures as of yet and that the balance remains at \$10,000.00. Ms. Baskin called for a motion to approve the Treasurer's report. Bill Harting made the motion to accept the report and it was seconded by Ryan Butts. The motion was approved unanimously.

Committee Chair Reports

Budget Committee

Kathryn Baskin indicated the pandemic has impacted the SHHPS budget. She noted that certain items have been previously approved including the scholarship for \$1,000.00 had not expensed. The Southern Red Oak Marker was budgeted at \$2,500.00. The marker is ordered, the actual cost of the marker is \$2,315.00. The budgeted money for the pay dirt, sluice box and pump \$1,400.00 has been deferred since there was no Sugar Rush this year. The D2 solution was originally approved for 55 gallons at \$1,650.00. After Stephanie Isaacs researched, it was determined that we did not need to order in that quantity which also works out better for storage purposes. Stephanie Isaacs ordered two (2) five-gallon containers for \$417.80 to use for cemetery clean up. SHHPS will also be ordering cleaning supplies (gloves, brushes, spray bottles) for the volunteers to use. Brandon Hembree came up with a budget amount for the cleaning supplies \$190.00. This left a little over

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\$1,000.00 out of the original D2 budget. Stephanie Isaacs also stated that they have another 5-gallon container left over previously so there will be a total of 15 gallons.

Kathryn Baskin stated that she would like to ask for approval to purchase books for our research library in our museum. Terese Steinbach, regent of the Suwanee Creek Chapter of the DAR prioritized and provided SHHPS with a list of books and resources she feels are important to include in our research library at the museum. Ms. Baskin noted that Ms. Steinbach had provided a listing of the books in tiers along with links to order these books. Kathryn Baskin indicated that she can provide the listing of publications and the tiers but would like to ask for a motion of approval for \$1,200.00 to purchase books for our museum library. She stated that the first tier of books would provide a good foundation of resources to use in the museum for research purposes.

Ms. Baskin added that Terese Steinbach also connected these resources with the migration patterns of people in Georgia, Gwinnett County, and that are relevant to the Sugar Hill community. The first tier of books cost approximately \$1,200.00. Ms. Baskin told members that Terese Steinbach has also called on her chapter's members with the DAR to donate history books to the new library museum as well. Darrell Pruitt asked Kathryn Baskin to give a general explanation. She stated that the books are about history, genealogical research, historical research on the war, books about the land lottery, a general handbook for genealogist historians, archivist lawyers, colonial families in the Revolutionary War period, tax digests, a list of early settlers of Georgia, and many more.

Ms. Baskin commented that the DAR also wants to provide volunteers in the museum, and that we need resources in our library. Brandon Hembree stated he feels this is a good idea and will give us a good start in our research room. He noted that this will be one of the first aspects of the museum that will be open to the public since it will take time to build out the display cases. Councilman Hembree stated he feels the interest in genealogical research is growing and will grow in our community. We can add more to our collection over time. Mr. Hembree made a motion to approve the \$1,200.00 to purchase the first tier of books; the motion was seconded by Joann Burel. The motion was approved unanimously.

Stephanie Isaacs asked Kathryn Baskin if a computer will be available in the research room at the museum to research ancestry and census records. Kathryn Baskin stated a computer/laptop, as well as a scanner/copier/all-in one would be additional items that the SHHPS would need to discuss next month. Stephanie Isaacs stated SHHPS could subscribe to the basics ancestry.com. Kathryn Baskin added that the DAR has a huge digital database, but sometimes you still need to look at a hard copy to get the real story.

Museum Committee

Tiffany Hale Carter stated they are getting back into the swing of things and she plans to meet with Assistant City Manager Troy Besseche along with Kathryn Baskin and Brandon Hembree on Tuesday to get an update on the museum and discuss any anticipated responsibilities from SHHPS. She stated that once the meeting is occurs, she will report back to the committee members. Ms. Carter added that if needed she will arrange a virtual meeting for the committee. Brandon Hembree indicated that he walked by the museum a few days ago and they have the framing up for the research room.

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In addition, Ms. Baskin told members that she had discussed with Brandon Hembree about getting an intern from someone seeking a Master of Library of Science or Archivist to work with SHHPS to assist us in preserving and displaying the artifacts. Last year the Gwinnett Historical Society did this with students who were seeking a Master of Library of Science degree to input data into a software program. Kathryn Baskin stated she wants to make sure we are getting museum quality glass frames and properly storing documents. Kathryn Baskin reiterated Ms. Carter's statement regarding learning more about SHHPS responsibility for including specific furnishings and items for the museum. Brandon Hembree stated time is of the essence on the budget. He told the group that the City Manager Paul Radford and Finance Director Cindy Pugh are in the process of developing the City's budget for 2021. He advised that this is a good time to discuss this matter during the meeting with Assistant City Manager Troy Besseche.

Research Committee -

Stephanie Isaacs stated they are currently still on standby and will piggy back off the museum committee as far as the state of the artifacts, decide which ones are going to be displayed, what the design and verbiage will look like for the displays. She reminded the group that the research committee has an outline for structure with categories for the basics and can go deeper quickly once it is decided what will be displayed.

Scholarship Committee -

Varessa Butts reported the she and Ryckie Fernandez have had scheduling difficulties. She noted that they have some previously discussed ideas, but they are having a challenge connecting so they haven't agreed on a topic. Kathryn Baskin indicated that the scholarship needed to be awarded soon in order to be included in this year's budget.

Digital Archives Committee -

Margaret Neal indicated that she, Kathryn Baskin, and Kim Landers met a couple of times to review the metadata format and how we need a consistent way to fill out the forms and to enter the data into the system. She stated that they had met last week and will meet again on November 2nd with a goal to establish a consistent standard for recording the metadata. She added that once that is determined that they would consider getting one-two interns to enter the metadata into the Omeka system. Kathryn Baskin commented on how intense, detailed and overlapping it is for all that is involved to collect/document on the forms and then input the metadata consistently into the system.

Cemetery Committee -

Brandon Hembree stated there is a cemetery clean-up project day coming up on November 7, 2020. He said that it will be a low-intensity project day, with no pea gravel work, but that volunteers will be cleaning the veteran's graves. Also, Mr. Hembree said that pre-flagging the graves will occur for the November 11th Veteran's Day ceremony. He commented that Chris Walker and a couple of other helpers will be there to reset/repair some of the bases on the markers. Mr. Hembree noted that the project day starts at 9:00 am, with registration starting at 8:30 am. Brandon Hembree stated he will provide water and ice for volunteers such as the Youth Council and Youth

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Ambassadors who have committed to the project day. He reported that SHHPS will be advertising this along with the City and anticipates more volunteers as we get closer to the event.

Mr. Hembree stated that he has been working with SHHPS members on the Veteran's Day program for November 11, 2020 at 10:30 am. The ceremony will begin at 11:01 am. He added that a good program has been planned for that day. Mr. Hembree told members that the program includes Kathryn Baskin reading the names of the 37 military service members for which bricks have been ordered. He said that the bricks will be installed prior to the event and will be unveiled during the program.

In addition, Mr. Hembree reported that he has been coordinating with Tiffany Hale Carter about a Black Women's Association of Sugar Hill service member being involved in the ceremony. He also told members that there is a new Commander for the American Legion Post 127 which is located here in Sugar Hill. Her name is Mary Krueger and she will be speaking and the Broad Street Band will be playing patriotic music starting at 10:30 am.

Kathryn Baskin called for a motion to approve the cleaning supplies for cemetery project day event. Darrell Pruitt made a motion to approve the \$200.00 to purchase the cleaning supplies and it was seconded by Stephanie Isaacs. The motion was approved unanimously.

Stephanie Isaacs stated that she will install the white indicator flags in the holders. Brandon Hembree said that they also need to install the flags at the roundabout. He noted that Bill Harting has modified the holder tubes so it should not take long to just stick the flags in the holders.

Old Business

Kathryn Baskin stated that she has asked for an update on the Red Oak Marker from the vendor, but she has not heard back from them. She said she will continue to reach out to them. Ms. Baskin stated that the marker will go directly to the Sugar Hill Maintenance Facility and asked about coordinating this delivery. Kim Landers stated that previously the city would be told ahead of time to make sure the Sugar Hill Maintenance Facility is ready for the delivery and storage and asked that Ms. Baskin be sure when she talks with them to make sure they notify the city in advance of delivery. Ms. Landers added that they can contact her at 770-945-6734 x 1209 and/or Joe Appling, the Public Works Superintendent at 678-794-8315 for delivery.

Brandon Hembree stated that the other marker is still located at the Maintenance Facility waiting for SHHPS to take action, and he will be reaching out to the Eagle Scout candidate for this.

Kathryn Baskin stated that the DAR will be conducting a project at the cemetery on the morning of October 31, 2020. Also, Stephanie Isaacs will be conducting a tour of the historic cemetery with some Senior Girl Scouts on October 30th.

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New Business

Kathryn Baskin stated she will be giving an update/overview of SHHPS at the Sugar Hill Women's Club meeting on October 29th. She told members that the Women's Club invites the various community groups every year to give updates and talk about what their organization does for the community.

Darrell Pruitt reported that he will start conducting interviews again soon if it can be done remotely.

Stephanie Isaacs stated she met up with Brad Nichols who performed metal detecting at the cemetery near the fencing at the distillery location. They found a 1970 nickel, and some other ties, and came up with a part of a wooden leg to an old stove and will be doing some more metal detecting to see what else is there. Kathryn Baskin indicated during the digital archive committee discussions, the committee realized that the items need to have provenance or some historic relevance to the city. She commented that unless an item can be tied specifically to the city, then we should not be accepting those artifacts as our space is limited.

As an example, she said that Kim Landers had told her about a coke bottle that was found at the location of the newly built concession stand where the shoe factory once was located. She added that during the construction, workers uncovered the leather scraps along with the coke bottle that was found buried several feet down under fill. Ms. Baskin told members that the case could be made that the coke bottle would have historic relevance because someone from the factory probably tossed their bottle in the pile along with the leather scraps. Stephanie Isaacs indicated the stove leg may have been used in the schoolhouse, so if they can tie to that then it would be considered historic.

Kathryn Baskin announced that the speaker for November was Jed King. She stated that Mr. King had conducted a tremendous amount of research on Sugar Hill and that SHHPS will be looking forward to his presentation.

No other discussion or questions were noted. There being no further business, Kathryn Baskin adjourned the meeting at 8:33PM.