

**Sugar Hill Historic Preservation Society Meeting  
Wednesday, July 23, 7:00 P.M.  
City of Sugar Hill City Hall  
Meeting Minutes**

**Approval of the Agenda**

Kathryn Baskin, Chairman, convened the meeting at 7:12 PM after moving the meeting to the History Museum. and welcomed everyone.

Kathryn called for a motion to approve the agenda. Darrell Pruitt made a motion to approve the agenda. Bill Harting 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
Ryan Butts	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
Steve Samples	Volunteer
Varessa Butts	Volunteer

The following members were absent:

<b>NAME</b>	<b>TITLE</b>
Joann Burel	Board Member/Treasurer
Tiffany Hale Carter*	Board Member
Lindsay Davis*	Board Member
Ryckie Fernandez	Board Member

\*Indicates committee chair.

**Buford Dam/Lake Lanier Exhibit**

Kathryn indicated that she would give the report since Tiffany Hale Carter could not be at the meeting tonight. Kathryn stated the opening exhibit for the Buford Dam/Lake Lanier Exhibit was a huge success with a great turnout to hear David Coughlin, our special guest who discussed the process behind the planning and building Lake Lanier and Buford Dam. In addition, he signed and sold copies of his book titled "Lake Sidney Lanier: The Early History and Construction of Buford Dam". The exhibit is generating a lot of interest. Kathryn reported that a lot of people came into the museum on Sunday; she noted that they were not just Sugar Hill citizens, but also people who live on the lake, in Gainesville, Flowery Branch, and further up north. This is a good indication that the word is spreading. Many were very intrigued and took the time to watch the video and look at David's book. Darrell asked if this exhibit could be done more than once and Kathryn indicated she expected to repeat the exhibit in about a year. Brandon Hembree indicated that he would like to see what we have put together condensed and turned into a more permanent exhibit. Kathryn indicated that they can incorporate this into the permanent area for the Buford Dam/Lake Lanier area once the exhibit is taken down and what is unused can be packed away for a future exhibit.

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Kathryn stated the exhibit is advertised for 6 weeks but would like to extend that until the end of September. The members agreed and noted it was discussed back in May to have these exhibits quarterly.

For the next exhibit, Kathryn indicated that she discussed the next exhibit with Brandon and Stephanie and they all agreed that the next exhibit should complement the city's Sugar Rush event, so Gold Rush and Goldmining would be a good idea for the next exhibit. Kathryn mentioned that Brandon did a great presentation at the Gwinnett Historical Society's July meeting on goldmining and has a wealth of information to share. Bill offered some suggestions for setting up the next exhibit. Kathryn suggested that Brandon could give a similar presentation for this exhibit, and Stephanie stated they could also dig into the geology.

**Approval of Meeting Minutes**

Kathryn called for a motion to approve the meeting minutes from June 16, 2021. Stephanie Isaacs made a motion to approve the minutes. Bill seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

**Treasurer's Report**

Kathryn indicated Joann is out of town so there won't be a Treasurer's report. She told members that at the end of the last meeting there was \$6197.17 which went through June 8<sup>th</sup>. She added that there was an email vote to spend \$501.50 +/- for the printing rights and illustrations, and additional supplies for command strips, frames and other supplies needed for the exhibit which was \$544.23. David's book was purchased for \$59.95, and then there was \$19.08 spent for David's speaker gift. Also, Kathryn told members that Bill has turned in receipts for \$100 for more cemetery stakes. The approximate remaining budget is \$5,000.00.

**Committee Chair Reports:**

**Budget Committee**

See Treasurer's Report for update.

**Research Committee -**

Stephanie indicated she will begin working on research for the Goldmine exhibit. Kathryn indicated she would begin working on collecting display examples.

**Museum Committee**

Reported earlier

**Scholarship Committee -**

Nothing to report currently.

**Digital Archives Committee -**

Margaret Neal indicated she could not make the last Digital Archives Committee meeting. Kathryn asked Kim Landers to report on this. Kim indicated that the Committee members, Kim, Steve, and Margaret along with Chase met. Kathryn appointed Steve to take the lead on getting the information into the Omeka System. Kim added Chase to the Omeka System and included her in all

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the data so that she can assist. Steve made a recommendation that we needed to move forward on the collections and tags which was discussed with the group, and Kim noted that she had added the collections in the Omeka system and indicated that the tags can be added as information is entered in the system. The next meeting was not scheduled to regroup. Kim indicated she really appreciates Steve with his knowledge he's been such a great help.

**Cemetery Committee -**

Brandon indicated he's leading and coordinating an event with Stephanie on August 21<sup>st</sup> from 8 am to 1 pm for a Cemetery Workday to continue the pea gravel and work on the unmarked markers. Alexis Torres, Brandon's intern, is working on a digital sign-up for this and once she's done Brandon will post the event through the Preservation Society.

Stephanie indicated that she currently has 10 stones to put down which is a challenge due to soil conditions. They will be washing stones in October and then again in November.

Brandon mentioned the Eagle Scout Project for the marker repairs. Stephanie also indicated repairs are being done to the coping and will take some time. Mike Reilly with Lanier High School is helping with the standing plaques to honor the unmarked graves, one for the adults and 1 for the babies.

Lindsay had mentioned the Honor Society at North Gwinnett to Stephanie as a lead for volunteers. Stephanie thanked Lindsay for this lead and responded that she is just waiting for school to start back to get more people to help with these repairs and marker placements.

Stephanie indicated she had gotten a proclamation for her great uncle and indicated that anyone can request a Presidential citation for someone that served in the military. Stephanie indicated she had gotten one for Truman Williams and will also have one for one of the WWII veterans in the cemetery. Also, stones can be obtained from 1990 forward for veterans and Stephanie can order these as the Sugar Hill Cemeterian.

**Old Business**

Kathryn indicated Sugar Rush will be two days this year, September 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> and asked if the members had decided if the sluice box will be open for both days. Darrell and Ryan stated that it takes a lot of work to man the sluice box and that one day should be enough. Brandon asked if Sunday was a 1/2 day or a full day. Kathryn indicated that we would need enough volunteers to man whatever time the members agree upon. Kathryn indicated she would follow-up with Ansley on the logistics of the Sugar Rush. In addition, she will need to order a pump and enough pay dirt to accommodate the event. Varessa indicated that Chris and Suzie donated the original pump and that last year they ran out of pay dirt for just the one day. Kathryn stated she would try to reach out to Chris on what kind of pump would be best. Kim stated she would look and see if the old pump was still in the sluice box. Ryan indicated it just needs to be a strong pump.

Kathryn asked members to be sure and spread the word about the other presentations for the Buford Dam/Lake Lanier exhibit. She asked members to be sure and share the announcements through social media for SHHPS and for the Museum.

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**New Business**

Kathryn told members that the Gwinnett Historical Society does the Pledge of Allegiance before each meeting. Bill had suggested that we start doing the pledge before each meeting, so we need to get a flag.

Brandon indicated that the DAR gave SHHPS a flag that was flown over their headquarters over Washington DC and would like to fly it over City Hall. Brandon has reached out to Boy Scout Troup 1534 to set up a Flag Raising Ceremony and make it educational so that people know how to properly do a flag raising and flag folding.

Bill asked about putting the flags on the graves for the November 11<sup>th</sup> Veterans Day and wanted to put that date on everyone's radar. Varessa indicated there are only two more meetings until Veteran's Day.

Kathryn stated that the volunteers have become more consistent in the museum. Chase has included a calendar page in the Volunteer Notebook so there is a reference for who is volunteering on specific days.

Brandon asked about making sure there would be audio/visual for the presentation of "Pete and the Indian Mounds". Kim indicated she would make sure Amit and Ned have the equipment available.

Varessa indicated that this was National Lake Appreciation month.

Brandon indicated the DAR was doing the Wreath Across America Ceremony again this year which will be December 18, 2021, at noon. He added that the Suwanee Creek Chapter of the DAR asked the city to do a Constitution Proclamation Month in September.

Kathryn stated that Simona Lucci was present for David's presentation. She's getting a degree in journalism and doing an internship with Fresh Take of Georgia. She's conducting interviews as a part of her project and will share when it's completed.

Kathryn mentioned that Frances Johnson who is an archivist at the Gwinnett Historical Society heard Brandon's presentation when he talked about the Shelley-Howerton house. She suggested that Kathryn provide information on the history of Sugar Hill and the house to be included in the files at the GHS offices. Kathryn noted that since the house is privately owned that Margaret Neal would need to agree.

Brandon indicated that Steve Samples would be appointed to SHHPS at the August City Council Meeting. There is one more vacancy that needs to be filled at some point and time.

There being no further business, Kathryn adjourned the meeting at 8:09 PM.