

**Minutes for OFMHA
Meeting; November 12, 2008**

Attendance:

Dru Heldman Chairperson, TAAS Gallery
David Quinn Handmade in America
Nada Carroll Old Fort Resident
Terry Wilson Teacher, Old Fort Elem.
Ashely Wooten Asst. McDowell County Mgr.
Garland Norton Mayor of Old Fort
Carroll Miller Mayor Pro Tem Old Fort
Carol Price Tourism McDowell County
Susie Painter Painter's Greenhouse
Annie Bevan Artist and Resident of Old Fort
Susan Cole Teacher, West Marion Elem.
Terrell Finley Curator, Old Fort Museum
Debbie Acrovis Catawba Falls Campground

Design: Dru was not there at the beginning of our meeting; David was a few minutes late, so Carol suggested we start by talking about Jones' Concrete Ornamentals. Terry and Susie led the discussion on the importance of having planted containers along the streets in Old Fort. These containers would add an element of beauty and interest to our town. Trees were also mentioned as a possibility in some places. Susie had gotten a wholesale price list from Jones in Edneyville, NC. Discussion was that if we want to make an impact as to what OFMHA is doing, this would be the most visible way. If we are going to do this, we need to get started now, because of limited time in the spring, and delivery cut off dates from Jones'. Carol said we had a little over \$900 in our account from doing the BBQ dinners last March... She is going to check further and see if monies from the STEP Grant would be available to help with this project. Besides the cost of the containers, latex paint to seal the inside of the containers would need to be purchased. Painter's Greenhouse will donate recycled soil to fill the containers. The top six inches of fresh composted soil will have to be purchased from Lowes or whoever. Painter's will work with the town on donating plants when possible, and selling at a much reduced rate if needed. . Several members agreed to meet at the Depot on Friday, November 14 @ 3:30 PM. and do a walkabout town, to get an estimate of how many pots we might need. A field trip to Jones was discussed to get more information on sizes, designs and prices. Also discussed was the importance of having the town's maintenance dept.'s help in maintaining these planters by watering them daily and a regular fertilization program. Several members said they would be willing to bring this before the Board of Aldermen.

David talked to the group about the importance of making everything we do, work together into a "fit & flow" manner; from our discussion of ideas to actual completion of projects. He set up an easel with charts that he drew on and explained the different

processes we would have to take to accomplish our goals. David also emphasized the importance of the town and the Alliance to work together and agree upon what was wanted and needed to be done. This has to be a joint effort.

Program Priorities; Mountain Stream (catch & release, creek walk) Parks and Trails, Beautify Old Fort, signage, cosmetics and pedestrian friendly. We need to work on the National Register for Historic District Designation. This is one of our most important projects.

The National Register Guidelines; Old Fort is a turn of the Century style community. Our current buildings with the correct front designs are what we are trying to preserve. We need to suggest ideas to building owners in an encouraging way. We need to think about the style of our signage too.

Program Areas that can work together to get an historic sense of place; Economic Development, Design, and Cultural Resources. We should coordinate with the Pedestrian Plan; tie in the Trails Project. By Connecting museum, school, parks, bike trails beyond city limits we could be using “The Safe Pathways to School” Grant monies. Nancy Jordan is working on this. We need to look and see where these projects might overlap and make it work.

The Mill Creek Trout Program; David said we had the BHR Grant. This is a \$10,000 matching grant. We think we can use \$10,000 from the NC STEP Grant which would leave \$40,000 in the Step. We do not have the contract for the STEP Grant yet, but hope that it will be finalized in the next few weeks. David emphasized the use of Leverage in this way to accomplish some of our goals.

Cultural: David said we should keep in mind our Mountain Music which is a big part of Old Fort. We need to work on the J.A.M. (Junior Art in Music) Program. We need to talk to other communities who have done these programs.

Incorporate: We need to work on getting established as a non-profit organization. We need to have a 501-C-3 status.

Carroll Miller spoke of the architect from the Resource Team. “Luther’s Plan” as we called it, is something we should be conscious of in our developing plans. David will contact Luther and see what the possibilities are for him to work with us. An aerial map of Old Fort, will also be brought to our next meeting for us to view.

Our next meeting is Wednesday, December 10, 2008 3:00 @ the Depot. Carol Price has a video that she will show by Ed McMahan. It’s about community revitalization. It will help us see “the Big Picture.”

Susie C. Painter

