

## **Lexington County Museum Commission Minutes**

**February 7, 2017**

**Members Present:** Bill Kiesling, Cathy Stutts, Edie Harmon, Joyce Mize, Jim Riddle

**Members Absent:** Mary Sharpe (family illness), Laura McMahan (family matter), and Rhett Inabinett.

**Others Present:** J. R. Fennell, Director and Karen Parrish, President of the Friends of the Lexington County Museum

Commission Chairman Bill Kiesling called the meeting to order at 5:30. The roll was taken and revealed that there was a quorum present. The minutes from December 6, 2016 were reviewed. A spelling error was noted and corrected. The motion was made by Joyce Mize and seconded by Edie Harmon to accept the minutes with the spelling correction. The minutes were accepted unanimously.

**Friends of the Lexington County Museum Report:** Karen Parrish gave an update on the Friends of the Lexington County Museum. Parrish noted that the planning of the fundraiser is going smoothly with sponsor letters being sent out. Sponsors have started sending in their sponsorships. Parrish also reported that local farmers have been invited to exhibit their products at the fundraiser as well.

**Old Business:** Mr. Fennell reported on the success of recent events. The Christmas Open House had a fantastic turnout with over 600 people attending. Details of that day's events followed. Fennell reported about the events in January as well. Fennell gave a presentation on the history of alcohol in Lexington County at the Hollow Creek Distillery which was attended by 25 people. The museum also hosted its annual Civil War Encampment and Candlelight Tour which drew about 110 people over two days. Director Fennell and PT Historical Interpreter Ken Robison led their "Murders and Mysteries" tour on February 4<sup>th</sup>. Around 215 people came out despite the cold weather that night.

Efforts to have a research library in the museum's Exhibit Hall in honor of Devin McMahan continue. Bookshelves were recently purchased with money from the Devin McMahan Memorial Fund. McMahan's books will be moved to the museum after his mother's recovery from surgery.

A colored school for the museum grounds continues to be studied with Center School on Spring Hill Road being look into for movement. Director Fennell has spoken with one of the owners of the property the school is on, Mrs. Amanda Taylor. Taylor reported that she will bring the future of the school up with the co-owners of property and will get back to Fennell. Fennell also reported that he had spoken with the owner of the Fairview School and has let him know that the museum is unable to accept the school.

**Monthly Report:** Monthly reports were given and reviewed.

**New Business:** Director Fennell reported that the Herb Bunch will have their annual Herb Festival on the grounds of the museum again. This event will take place on April 1, 2017.

**Acquisitions:** No acquisitions were presented to the museum commission.

With there being no further business, the motion was made by Jim Riddle and seconded by Cathy Stutts to adjourn. The motion passed unanimously and the meeting adjourned at 6:40.

Respectfully Submitted,

J.R. Fennell

Museum Director