

WAYNESBORO ADVOCACY COMMITTEE
100pm, Tuesday September 3, 2024
Waynesboro Office of Economic Development

- I. Welcome
- II. Funding updates
 - a. Trailer
 - b. Construction Pool
- III. Detailed Design
 - a. Exhibits
 - b. Building
- IV. Community
 - a. Library
 - b. Lecture Series
 - c. September 7th
 - d. Fall Foliage Fest
 - e. Trailer
- V. Open Discussion
- VI. Adjourn

MINUTES FOR 3 SEPT 2024 MEETING:

Attending: Tom Benzing (Chair), Len Poulin, Faye Cooper, Joe Keiper (minutes)

Attending by Zoom: Carole Nash, Greg Hitchin, Ryan Barber, Jonathan Martin

Tom called the meeting to order at 1:02pm. Minutes from this meeting and the August meeting will be approved at the October meeting.

Tom gave a brief summary of the Board of Trustees' recent strategic retreat, and he was pleased at how much importance the Board has given to the VMNH-Waynesboro project.

Tom asked Joe to give an update on the funding for the Construction Pool and Trailer. Joe noted that we would not be considered for Construction Pool movement until the 2026 GA session. Tom asked if we were in the 6-year Capital Outlay Plan, and Jonathan said we were.

Joe and Jonathan noted a positive event with the Trailer as we were approved for use of Maintenance Reserve Funds to bring the trailer back up to proper working condition. About \$100,000 will be readily available, more should we feel the need to apply it to this project. Volunteers have been active at the trailer, and we'll have an enhanced day on 7 September 2024. Len, Tom and Carole noted needed updates to hand-outs, such as the 4-page Project Summary, and the 2-page informational flier. We will add "Who's my Legislator" to the latter. Carole noted she and at least one student will drop by on the 7th.

Joe also gave an update on Detailed Design. We are about ready to begin the Preliminaries phase, with Glave Holmes working to incorporate Dept of Engineering and Building concerns into the current building design.

For Community Engagement, Ryan noted Clawd the Ground Sloth will be swapped out with the Triceratops at the Waynesboro Public Library. The Lecture Series restarts on 17 September with a talk on gold mining in VA. Fall Foliage Fest is in October and will be a good time for outreach. VMNH will announce via press release the partnership with Dominion Foundation and the trail interpretation signs. We will prepare a FAQ text panel to support Trailer-based outreach.

During open discussion, Greg noted he would try to reschedule a legislative visit. Len noted it might be useful to gather video-based testimonials at the Trailer to use in our advocacy (iPad-based, one minute each).

Joe asked the WAC to come up with advice on who to reach out to in terms of companies who could help us come up with a RFP for work on the outreach trailer.

With no further business, Tom adjourned the meeting at 1:58pm.