

Cordesville Community Meeting

March 15, 2025

The meeting was opened in prayer at 10 a.m. by Melanie followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Guest speakers went first as they had other commitments later in the day.

1. The Taveau report was presented by Thetyka Robinson of Asiko Group, Carter Hutchins, Joanna (?) of the State Historical Restoration group. Funding has come from a state grant and the National trust. The goals are to stabilize the building by removing/replacing brick footings/foundation; replace joists; true the corners of the splayed walls; roof protection. They've had to use new wood next to historic wood maintaining original materials as much as possible. The next stage will be to seal the exteriors, restore the outside—windows, and doors. When finished it will be bare studs on the interior. Stakeholders include Preservation SC, Wagoner Foundation, Community, Sacred Corridor (Bill Fitzpatrick), Taveau Legacy, National African American Heritage Action Fund whose goal is preserve black church history. Community engagement is in three steps—engage, tours/feedback and community recommendations. The historical marker is updated with more accurate information. It was a freedman's school from 1867-69 with rosters of students. A partnership with Mepkin Abbey maybe down the road but now the focus is on funding for restoration.

Melanie asked if the report could be emailed to put on Facebook. It was reported that the hard part would be sustainability.

2. Elaine Morgan of the Berkeley Chamber reported that we will be getting more Chrome books, resources for telehealth, mental health, drug/alcohol addictions, mobile health. Cybersecurity training will be available through work force. The plan is for Cordesville to be the 6th hub.

3. Sgt Jimmy Smith stated that Cordesville/Macedonia is designated as zone 5 with an assigned deputy, however if unavailable, response time may be 10-15 minutes. He reported that there were no major problems this past month—just some suspicious persons reported, lockouts, and alarms. He reiterated if you see something, say something. Frank stated he appreciated the increased presence of the deputies addressing speeding on Witherbee Road.

1. Minutes were approved as printed with a motion by Frank McKnight and seconded by Brian Fry.
2. Tarsha Taylor presented the treasurer's report which was accepted following a motion by Frank with a second from Oscar Johnson.
3. The by-laws amendment was presented by Melanie and accepted on a motion by Frank and seconded by Brian.

New Business

1. Community center update—Melanie reported that the foundation has been poured, and the building ordered—there is a 12-16 week wait time.
2. Cordesville cares—Frank reported that 90 bags of trash were picked up and we participated in wheelchair ramp and back porch installation and repairs. April 12 is the next date and unless another need arises, we will be working on the sign.
3. Education—licenses are about used, will have to look into more and there are costs involved. Now offering essential ed where only skills needed are studied. Google has been very helpful.
4. Pastor association—Mother Gibbs has offered to host the Fall Revival in September or October. We will publicize the events.
5. Newsletter—plan on sending out 100/month; we have 582 addresses from voter rolls. It will be on the website. Copies were available to those present.
6. Fundraiser—suggestions include car washes, movie nights, community yard sale
7. Grants—applying for program support such as paper, consumables, etc. Looking at grants from TD, credit unions, Santee Cooper—asked for donation of tables/chairs that had been planned for auction, need grant software that is \$80/year. Donations are tax deductible.
8. It was suggested we look into additional signs for Taveau and Cordesville Community.

Meeting was adjourned at 11:05 with prayer by Melanie.

Respectfully submitted,

Anne Turner, Secretary