



Historic Resources Board

FY2023 ANNUAL REPORT
Adopted September 5, 2023

Table of Contents

Introduction.....	3
Responsibilities	3
Activities.....	4
Collections.....	4
Memoriam	5
A Look Ahead	5
Membership.....	6
Attendance Report	7



Introduction

The Manassas Historical Committee was established by a resolution adopted by the Manassas City Council on August 27, 1973, and reestablished with an expanded mission by Council Resolution R-90-48 on June 11, 1990. The Committee was reconstituted as the Manassas Historic Resources Board (“HRB” or “Board”) by Resolution R-99-154, adopted by the City Council on June 14, 1999. It is an advisory body pursuant to Virginia Code § 15.2-1411 and subject to City of Manassas Code § 2-301 and City Council Policies related to advisory bodies.

Responsibilities

The purposes of the Board are as follows:

1. To advise the City Council as appropriate on matters of historical interest to the City. These include, but are not limited to, historic preservation, educational and cultural programs, and tourism promotion.
2. To act as an advisory board to The Manassas Museum. In this capacity, the Board shall formulate policy recommendations for approval by the City Council. These include, but are not limited to, strategic planning, admission and other policies, business planning, programming, and the accession/de-accession of artifacts.
3. To work in cooperation with such community organizations as the City of Manassas Architectural Review Board, Historic Manassas, Inc., Manassas Business Council, Manassas Museum Associates, Old Town Business Association, and other groups for the general benefit of the citizens of Manassas.
4. To foster wider awareness of the City’s historic legacy and promote responsible stewardship of historic resources both public and private.
5. To consider and comment on other matters of general community interest as requested by the City Council and, or other organizations or groups as listed above.

Activities

In FY23 the HRB supported the Museum's exhibits, programs, and work at our historic sites. Specific board work on historic sites included conducting monthly, in-person inspections of our historic properties, and supporting the staff in the renovation projects taking place at Liberia and Annaburg. The HRB also supported the work on the new museum building by attending meetings of the ad-hoc Exhibition Committee to listen to their ideas for the new displays. In addition, the HRB collaborated with the Architectural Review Board on the new Mathis Avenue Development that is adjacent to the historic Liberia property to ensure that what is built there will not negatively impact the historic landscape owned by the City. Finally, the HRB crafted new Mission and Vision Statements for the Museum to recognize the new position the museum occupies in the community, and to bring the institution in line with best practices. Taken together, the new Mission and Vision statements comprise one of the five core documents the HRB is reviewing as a first step toward pursuing accreditation through the American Alliance of Museums.

Collections

A primary responsibility of the HRB is to approve the donations of artifacts to the Museum's permanent collection and to de-accession those that are no longer appropriate. The HRB annually appoints a Collections Committee that also includes two at large members of the community. The Committee meets quarterly on the first Wednesday of March, June, September and December with the Museum Curator to consider potential donations. In FY23 the Committee considered 12 offers to the museum's collection, totaling 39 individual artifacts. The Committee accepted 34 of

those artifacts for the collection, while 5 were declined. Of particular significance was the original embosser used by the Town of Manassas found in the basement of City Hall, and a cancelled check signed by Anna Portner found inside the walls at Liberia.

Finally, the Collections Committee also approved a request from Historic Manassas, Inc. for the loan of two pieces from the collection for temporary display inside the Visitor Center – a wooden train made by Albert Speiden and a bridge table that features the names of local businesses from the mid-20th century.

In Memoriam

The Board takes this opportunity to recognize the passing of a member of the HRB, Mr. Donald Wilson. Don was a long-term member of the Historic Resources Board, serving for a time as chairman and as a member of the Collections Committee. He never failed to attend museum programs and events, and was passionate about local history. Don passed away in March after a brief illness. The HRB awarded him an honorary lifetime membership in memoriam in April.

A Look Ahead

During the year ahead, the Board will focus their attention on reviewing and updating three of the four remaining Core Documents in advance of applying for accreditation through the American Alliance of Museums. These documents are the Code of Ethics, Collections Policy, and Disaster/Emergency Preparedness Plan. In addition to this important work, the Board will continue to support the Annaburg renovation efforts as well as other projects taking place at our other historic sites around the City.

As always, the Board extends its appreciation to the Council for its continued support of the Manassas Museum and looks forward to a successful year in FY24.

Membership

<u>Member</u>	<u>Term Expiration</u>
William Backus	June 30, 2025
Dave Button	June 30, 2025
Lyshawn Dean*	June 30, 2025
Rob Fisher	June 30, 2024
Connie Gilman	June 30, 2023
Chris Harrover***	June 30, 2025
Robert Keller	June 30, 2024
Mark Olsen	June 30, 2023
Warwick Steer	June 30, 2023
Don Wilson**	June 30, 2023
Martha Wilson***	June 30, 2026
<u>Alternate Member</u>	
Laura Smith****	

*Resigned December 2022
*** Effective April 2023

**Deceased March 2023
**** Effective June 2023

Attendance Report

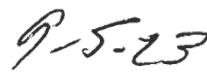
Board Members	Meetings	Present	Absent
Bill Backus	11	9	2
Dave Button	11	10	1
Lyshawn Dean*	5	3	2
Rob Fisher	11	9	2
Connie Gilman	11	7	4
Chris Harrover***	2	2	0
Robert Keller	11	10	1
Mark Olsen	11	10	1
Warwick Steer	11	9	2
Don Wilson**	7	7	0
Martha Wilson***	2	2	0
Alternate Member			
Laura Smith****	1	1	0

Note: The HRB did not meet in September 2022.

Sincerely,



Rob Fisher, Chair



Date