

**MATHEWS VA250 COMMITTEE  
AGENDA – 25 AUGUST 2023 MEETING  
MATHEWS PUBLIC LIBRARY – 3PM**

1. Minutes approval (previously forwarded by Reed Lawson to all Committee members)
2. Report by Tom Edwards on Cricket Hill
3. Report by Sandy Warhol on music research
4. Report by Fred Lyon on 501(c)(3)/fundraising issues
5. Report by Fred Lyon and Joe Syslo on tentative timelines and September 8 proposal (timelines forwarded to all Committee members)
6. Committees
  - Approve structure
  - Committee by committee discussion of roles with initial responsibilities
  - Meeting schedules
7. Old business
  - Letter to local museums, etc. about partnering with 250 (copy forwarded)
- 8.. New business

ADJOURN

**Mathews County VA250 Committee**  
**Monthly Board meeting**  
**August 25, 2023**  
**Mathews Memorial Library**

Chairman Fred Lyon called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m. at Mathews Memorial Library. In attendance were: Fred Lyon, Sandy Warhol, Joe Syslo, Reed Lawson, Becky Barnhardt, Bobby Dobson, Tom Edwards, Sharon Frye, Tom Karow, Kat Larkin, Martha McCartney, Hunter Owens, John Priest and Dee Russell. Absent was Leslie Search. Following the singing of Happy Birthday to Martha, the minutes of the July 19, 2023, meeting were approved on a motion by John, seconded by Tom E.

**Report on Cricket Hill** – Tom E. reported Michael Cecere, commander of the 7<sup>th</sup> Virginia Regiment of the Continental Line, will speak at the next meeting of Mathews VA250 Committee on plans to commemorate The Battle of Cricket Hill. John reported on past events that have taken place at Morningstar Marina to include the placement of a state SAR-financed bronze plaque on the property and annual onsite gatherings of the Richard Henry Lee Chapter SAR close to the July 9<sup>th</sup> date. He recommends Mathews VA250 coordinate with local SAR chapters to sponsor yearly events leading up to 2026. Mathews VA250 can provide communication, publicity and be a vehicle for grant possibilities. Discussion of filming the events will take place at a later time. Planning a 2026 Revolutionary War Week was suggested.

**Report on Music Research** – Sandy distributed a music resources list and asked for further input. She suggested Mathews VA250 create its own fife and drum band through the public schools. Hunter will be the conduit to the schools' music departments. There exists an instrumental music grant funding source. A major concert of patriotic music should be scheduled now to lock in the date in 2024, 25 or 26. Sandy is point of contact.

**Report on Fundraising** – Fred reported VA250 cannot channel tax-deductible gifts to Mathews VA250. The state committee reports that other localities are utilizing pass-through processes with nonprofits. Attending the September VA250 Zoom meeting may provide answers to questions. Mathews County may have the facility to accept and hold donations to Mathews VA250 just as other county committees do, i.e. Mathews Main Street Committee. Fred will meet with Gloucester and Middlesex VA250 chairs, as well as talk to Mathews County Admin. Tom K. suggested setting up a fund with Mathews Community Foundation to benefit Mathews VA250.

**Report on Tentative Timelines** – Joe and Fred reported that the next grant proposal deadline of September 8<sup>th</sup> is too soon to organize a request and that the committee should prepare a robust ask for the January/February cycle. The distributed timeline was explained. For the first of next year, the committee should present a formal written report to the newly-installed Board of Supervisors, provide an informational public meeting at a large venue, organize a dog and pony show with a 10-minute power point presentation for local groups and establish a website and social media presence. Sandy will compose a history of the VA250 Committee to begin the process of educating the public.

Events in the near future were suggested – a unit in the county Christmas parade. Mathews VA250, wearing Colonial garb, would march behind a horse and carriage distributing brochures. Joe is the point of contact. Bobby will contact the schools; Dee will approach the Courthouse Players.

With regard to the Shipbuilding timeline, Martha confirmed that the VA Department of Historic Resources (DHR) has reported that underwater archaeology has revealed nothing in Milford Haven. Mathews VA250 or other groups can research late 18<sup>th</sup> century shipbuilding in context to the war, as well as what was occurring generally in Kingston Parish (before the formation of Mathews County in 1791). Also, Becky mentioned creating a program to recognize Rev War descendents who are still in the area. Martha suggested presenting information on local free African-Americans and the enslaved who fled to Lord Dunmore. Involving the Cricket Hill Chapter DAR was suggested.

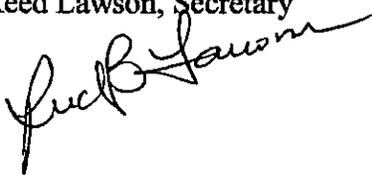
**Report on Committees** – On a motion by Sandy with Dee seconding, the committee structure was approved with the addition of Dee to the Research Committee. See attached Committee list. Each committee chair will report at every meeting. For the September 28<sup>th</sup> meeting, the brief report should include plans for the near future.

**Old Business** - Fred has drafted a letter to be sent to potential grant partners. Martha will edit. Because Mathews VA250 is a county committee, paper, other office supplies and printing may be covered by the library and files can be stored in the Staff Docs system. VA250 will offer suggestions for a Mathews VA250 logo that conforms to the statewide style.

**New Business** – Sandy suggested reaching out to Comix Con to participate in some way in the Mathews celebration. Dee suggested asking Pat Moss to design a Cricket Hill drawing to commemorate the 250<sup>th</sup>. Dee will be the point of contact. Mathews VA250 should be educating citizens through the entire process and be pro-active in visibility through displays and public communication.

**Adjournment** – Joe moved; Sandy seconded the meeting be adjourned – at 4:30 p.m. The next meeting of the Mathews VA250 is September 28, 2023 at Mathews Memorial Library at 3 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Reed Lawson, Secretary

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Reed Lawson", written in black ink.