

Mason Neck Citizens Association
 Monthly Board Meeting
 Cranford Methodist Church
 8:00 pm, January 6, 2010

Attendees :

<i>Officers</i>		<i>Board of Directors</i>	
Rick Hutson	President	Michael Devlin	Richard Ryan
Lucia Ferguson	Vice President	John Pionzio	Jerry Lyons
Dick Kennedy	Secretary	Dave Kyle	Bruce Scott (absent)
Bob Lee (absent)	Treasurer	Marvin Miller	Peter Weyland

Rick Hutson called the meeting to order at 8:02 and the following were discussed:

Discussion with David Reese. Mr. Reese – director of Gunston Hall since 2003 – accepted the Board’s invitation to talk about developments at GH. He noted that he has been involved in the management of historic properties for 30 years and has an MA in architecture and historical maintenance from UVA. He noted that GH achieved its current status in 1949, when the property was given to Virginia, while its stewardship was entrusted to the Colonial Dames. He said his main focus at GH has been on the life of George Mason and on trying to recreate his world, focusing on several areas: 1) the house – great progress has been made in restoring it to its 18th century appearance with regard to paint colors, ornaments, etc. 2) Collections – many objects in the GH collection that had no actual connection to GM were sold by Sotheby’s in 2002 for \$1.5 million and this money is reserved for acquiring objects that do have a connection to GM; many such objects have been obtained – either objects that GM actually owned or that are identical to objects he owned. 3) the grounds – GM was an exceedingly practical man and GH was mainly a working farm; hence, the ornamental garden built in the 1950s is now gone because there was no such thing in GM’s time.

Mr. Reese also outlined current operations and problems at GH, noting that annual operating costs are about \$1.8 million, so raising money is an important part of his job. Other than donations, the main income source is the government of Virginia – which has cut its contribution twice since last June, by 15 percent each time, to a current annual amount of \$540,000. Donations are also being hurt by the recession; their main source of is the Colonial Dames. Needed repairs and maintenance are being hampered by lack of funds. Mr. Reese noted, however, that he had discontinued renting of GH for private functions because his review of the records indicated that these functions, on balance, were actually money losers for GH while also adding to wear and tear on the facilities.

Prior to, and following Mr. Reese's comments, several Board members reiterated the idea that all of us were very much committed to doing everything that we can to support David's mission and Gunston Hall Plantation. Also, following Mr. Reese's comments, David Kyle offered pro bona services to help reduce mechanical systems

maintenance expenses at Gunston Hall and Michael Devlin offered assistance in establishing public information contacts with local media companies.

Approval of December minutes

Motion passed to approve the December 6th Board meeting minutes (Weyland/Pionzio).

General Membership Meeting Dates and Program

The date will be Feb. 23. The Board expressed thanks to Jerry for arranging with Don Hakenson to speak at the meeting about Mason Neck in the Civil War.

New/Old Business

ICAR – Rick and Marvin will meet again with ICAR Director Bartoli

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Bob Lee was absent but submitted a draft report for 2009 – not discussed due to lack of time. Main numbers as follows:

Balance at start of year:	\$2303.61
Credits:	\$2030.00
Debits:	\$2485.99
Balance at yearend:	\$1847.62
Breakdown of debits:	
Printing Services:	\$806.90
Web Site Services:	\$500.00
Contributions:	\$500.00
Postage:	\$415.05
Awards:	\$157.50
Flowers:	\$89.00
Bank Charge:	\$17.54
Total:	\$2485.99

Next Board Meeting

Wednesday, Feb. 3 at 7:30 PM

Meeting Adjourned

There being no further business, a **motion to adjourn** was approved at 9:19 PM (Devlin/Pionzio).