

Edenton Human Relations Commission Meeting Minutes  
May 26, 2021

The Edenton Human Relations Commission met in regular session on Wednesday, May 26, 2021 at 5:30 pm in the Council Chambers. The following members were present: Dr. Emma Bonner, Stella Simpson- Brothers, Jim Chesson, Percy Foxwell, Missie Harrell, Rebecca Hearn, Cynthia Herlong, Marshall Jordan, Jr., John Morehead, Rev. John Shannon, Darnell White and Patricia White. Absent were Sally Blount and Miles Coxe. Also present were Mayor Pro Tem Elton Bond, Jr. and Town Manager Anne-Marie Knighton.

Pastor John Shannon gave the invocation.

The minutes of the April 28, 2021 and the May 12<sup>th</sup> meeting were reviewed. A motion was made by Pastor Shannon to approve the minutes of the April 28<sup>th</sup> meeting and the May 12<sup>th</sup> minutes as corrected. The motion was seconded by Patricia White and carried unanimously.

Next on the agenda was discussion regarding the Confederate Monument. Co-Chair Cynthia Herlong asked members to keep in mind the following points: Be mindful of the five goals Miles Coxe shared with the Commission that members (Recognize people's feelings; Agree to avoid arguments; Identify policies and situations that are unfair, biased or malicious; Find solutions through conversation and Educate based on facts). Ms. Herlong also urged members to keep in mind the Commission's core values: Honesty/Integrity; Truth Seeking; Faith/Love; Diversity/Unity/Community and Compassion/Empathy.

Commission members proceeded to share what the Monument/Statue means to them personally. Members offered opinions as to whether the Monument/Statue should be taken down and what to do with the Monument/Statue if taken down; Lower the statue and add new statues to the public space where the statue is now or Leave the Statue as is, add another statue to tell the complete history.

Members spoke about now being the time for change and healing. Apologies without action don't count. Members shared personal stories of experiencing racism in Edenton. Members spoke of how the Statue serves as a reminder of hate and segregation. The Commission has a responsibility to educate and heal the community. Some recommended the Statue be relocated to the cemetery. The statue represents a false education and represents Jim Crow. The Commission should complete the history – the statue is part of our history but let's now tell the complete history.

Some members expressed that the Confederate Solider does not honor this country. That the statute represents the era of lynching of black people. Is that what Edenton stands for? Member expressed concern that outsiders may come and cause disruption of the peace with have here. The Statute denies black people's history. The Statue cannot remain and we promote unity within our community.

Member expressed regret over sharing his opinions and feelings at this time. Members encouraged all to share their opinions without fear of being judged. Expressions of love and admiration were offered. Members agreed that they had learned a great deal about the history of the Statue and what was going in the South and here in Edenton during the early 1900s and 1910s. Members spoke about the need for more community education. And the need to tell the complete history. It was a bad part of history but look now at the love and compassion we have for each other, we should add to the Statue in a profound way that moves us forward.

Member expressed need to recognize all soldiers – Confederate and Union soldiers. Recommended leaving the Statute as is and completing the history by adding another Statue.

The white board summary:

Take Down Statue: six

Lower the Statue and add another Statue: two

Leave Statue and add another Statue: three

The Co-Chairs thanked everyone for sharing, listening and pledged to continue the discussion at the next meeting.

There being no further items of business the meeting adjourned.

Edenton Human Relations Commission Meeting Minutes  
May 12, 2021

The Edenton Human Relations Commission met in regular session on Wednesday, May 12, 2021 at 5:30 pm in the Council Chambers. The following members were present: Dr. Emma Bonner, Stella Simpson- Brothers, Jim Chesson, Miles Coxe, Percy Foxwell, Missie Harrell, Rebecca Hearn, Cynthia Herlong, Marshall Jordan, Jr., John Morehead, Rev. John Shannon, Darnell White and Patricia White. Absent was Sally Blount. Also present were Mayor Pro Tem Elton Bond, Jr. and Town Manager Anne-Marie Knighton.

Pastor John Shannon gave the invocation.

Stella Brothers gave report on her recent interactions with the Chamber of Commerce. Ms. Brothers encouraged all to attend upcoming ribbon cutting ceremony for new business Bag Shop, owned by Anne "Peaches" Lightfoot. Ms. Brothers also reported she is working to compile list of African American owned and minority owned businesses to raise awareness.

Anne Marie Knighton reviewed the vacancies that currently exist on Town Boards and Commissions. Commission members asked that they be notified in future of vacancies to help Commission achieve goal of promoting equality of opportunity.

Dr. Bonner questioned how the Task Force was going to prevent littering. Missie Harrell asked why there was so little participation from black children in the Recreation Department's baseball program. Discussion ensued regarding baseball, tennis and swim programs now having little participation from black children. It was the consensus of the Commission that fees were not causing an exclusion issue but rather a lack of interest.

The Survey Committee members (Percy Foxwell, Missie Harrell & John Morehead) reviewed the draft community survey. Discussion ensued amendment to the survey, recommendation was made to expand question 3, suggest a suitable location to move Monument to. Discussion then moved to ways to raise awareness regarding method of administering the survey. Recommendation was made to put survey on Facebook, place ad in Chowan Herald and insert the survey in the Town's utility bills and the County's water bills.

Motion was made by Miles Coxe and seconded by John Shannon to proceed with survey with changes agreed to and publicizing via inserts in the Town and County utility bills. Ms. Knighton cautioned that the it may not be feasible to rely on inserting the survey into County water bills. Ms. Knighton also expressed concern that there may need to be community education prior to survey being released. Discussion ensued regarding who benefits from the survey.

Miles Coxe and John Shannon withdrew their motion to proceed with survey. John Morehead made motion that Commission members devote the May 26<sup>th</sup> entirely to talking about how members feel about the Monument. Dr. Bonner seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously. Co-Chair Cynthia Herlong suggested utilizing the White Board for the process of sharing members perspectives. Missie Harrell said she is sorry she will be unable to be in person for the next meeting but looks forward to talking about creating beautiful way to honor other people that have been a part of our community.

There being no further items of business the meeting adjourned.

Edenton Human Relations Commission Meeting Minutes  
April 28, 2021

The Edenton Human Relations Commission met in regular session on Wednesday, April 28, 2021 at 5:30 pm in the Council Chambers. The following members were present: Dr. Emma Bonner, Stella Simpson- Brothers, Jim Chesson, Miles Coxe, Percy Foxwell, Missie Harrell, Rebecca Hearn, Cynthia Herlong, Marshall Jordan, Jr., John Morehead, Rev. John Shannon, Darnell White and Patricia White. Absent was Sally Blount. Also present were Mayor Pro Tem Elton Bond, Jr. and Town Manager Anne-Marie Knighton.

Rev. Shannon gave the invocation. Motion was made by Darnell White and seconded by Patricia White to approve the minutes of the April 14, 2021 meeting as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

Co-Chair Mike Jordan welcomed LoriAnn Curtin, Chair of Edenton Zoning Board of Adjustment to the meeting. Chairman Jordan stated that as part of the Commission's goals and objectives, specifically the goal to promote equality of opportunity, the Commission was reaching out to leadership of town boards and commissions, inviting board chairs to share duties and responsibilities so Commission members have better understanding of skills and abilities needed as the Commission members seek to promote equality of opportunity to neighbors, friends and citizens at large.

Ms. Curtin shared the duties and responsibilities of the members of the Board of Adjustment. Ms. Curtin noted there were two vacancies, an alternate member for the inside city limits seat and an alternate seat for the one mile extra territorial jurisdiction seat. Commission members thanked MNCs. Curtin for her presentation.

Commission then heard presentation from Town of Edenton Attorney Hood Ellis regarding Internal Goal A, History of Confederate Monument/Statute. Attorney Ellis reviewed the laws and exceptions to the laws pertaining to public monuments in North Carolina, specifically NC General Statute 100-2.1, Protection of monuments, memorials and works of arts. (Appended to minutes). Attorney Ellis commended the Commission to review the 2017 UNC School of Government article "Statues and Statutes: Limits on Removing Monuments from Public Property". (Appended to minutes).

Commission members debriefed April 14<sup>th</sup> Jennifer Finley presentation that aligned with Goal A, History of Confederate Monument. Members expressed appreciation for Jennifer's research.

Commission members discussed follow up action item from previous meeting regarding public opinion and public input. After much discussion, consensus was reached for a committee comprised of Percy Foxwell, Missie Harrell and John Morehead to work together on a proposed survey to solicit public opinion about the Confederate Statute.

Commission members expressed appreciation for the training and guidance received from Dr. Betts and Barbara Davis, and talked about specific tools that members should reflect upon.

Stella Brothers reported her initial work with as an ex-officio member of the Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors.

Co Chair Mike Jordan expressed appreciation to all the Commission members for their participation and contributions to the work of the Commission. Co Chair Cynthia Herlong expressed appreciation for the dialogue from all. Stella Brothers expressed appreciation for John Morehead's research. (appended to minutes).

Next meeting will be Wednesday, May 12<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 pm. There being no further items of business the meeting adjourned.



Edenton Human Relations Commission Meeting Minutes  
March 24, 2021

The Edenton Human Relations Commission met in regular session on Wednesday, March 24, 2021 at 5:30 pm in the Council Chambers. The following members were present: Dr. Emma Bonner, Stella Simpson- Brothers, Jim Chesson, Percy Foxwell, Missie Harrell, Rebecca Hearn, Marshall Jordan, Jr., John Morehead, Rev. John Shannon, Darnell White, Patricia White and Cynthia Herlong. Absent was Sally Blount & Miles Coxe. Also present were Mayor Pro Tem Elton Bond, Jr. and Town Manager Anne Marie Knighton.

Co-Chair Jordan called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone to the meeting. Mr. Jordan introduced Mayor Jimmy Stallings. Mayor thanked the Commission members for their willingness to serve and extended appreciation from the Town Council as well. Mayor emphasized if in the future the Commission needed any support from the Council to please share that request with Mayor Pro-Tem Bond and he will communicate the request to the Council.

Stella Brothers gave the invocation. Motion was made by Darnell White and seconded by Stella Brothers to approve the minutes of the February 20, 2021 meeting as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

Co-Chair Cynthia Herlong reviewed proposed amendment to the agenda. It was recommendation of the Co-Chairs that going forward agenda items be aligned with the Commission's Goals. Consensus of the group was to work to align agenda items with either Internal or External Goals.

Co-Chair Jordan welcomed and introduced Planning Board Chairman Bob Partin and Edenton Chowan Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Susan Creed to the meeting. Mr. Partin reviewed the duties and responsibilities of the Edenton Planning Board. Mr. Partin explained the recent activities of the Board and described the membership of the Board. Seven members, three women and four men. One of the seven members is African American female. Mr. Partin explained the residency requirement of the one-mile extra territorial jurisdiction (ETJ). Chowan County Board of Commissioners appoint two of the seven members and those two appointees must live in the one-mile ETJ. Town Council appoints five members who must be residents of the Town of Edenton.

Susan Creed reviewed the mission and goals of the Edenton Chowan Chamber of Commerce. Ms. Creed said during February, Black History Month, it became clear to her that a goal should be greater diversity amongst the Chamber membership and its Board of Directors. She extended an invitation to the Commission to appoint a member to serve as an ex-officio member of the Board of Directors. The Board meets once a month, 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday at 8 am. Board members provide leadership to the business community and support Chamber programs.

The Commission members thanked Mr. Partin and Ms. Creed for enlightening them on the mission and duties of their respective boards. It was recommended that the Commission be informed in the future of any vacancies on the Town Boards and Commissions so that commission members encourage citizens to apply to serve. Commission requested in future presentations from Bob Hopkins, Site Manager, Historic Edenton State Historic Sites; Deborah Davis, Executive Director Edenton Housing Authority; and other Town Boards and Commissions Chairs. Also, it was suggested presentations from the Civic League, the Chowan County Chapter of NAACP and leadership in the Hispanic community be scheduled as well.

Commission asked Ms. Knighton to get list of African American businesses within the Chowan County from the Chamber of Commerce.

Co-Chair Herlong reminded group of the Town Council's Mission for the Commission, everyone has a voice

and Commission should strive to follow up and or confirm consensus when consensus is reached. Ms. Herlong suggested that members would benefit from more education regarding the Internal Goal related to the Confederate Monument before the Commission talks to the community or receives input from the community. Also, it was recommendation of the Co-Chairs that going forward agenda items be aligned with the Commission's Goals. Consensus of the group was to work to align agenda items with either Internal or External Goals.

It was consensus to invite Shepard-Pruden Memorial Librarian Jennifer Finlay to the April 14<sup>th</sup> Meeting to share research she has archived related to the (Chowan County) Confederate Monument. Members are particularly interested in learning about the relocation of the Monument from the Chowan County Courthouse Green to South Broad Street. Also, the Commission would like to hear from Town Attorney Hood Ellis on the 2015 legislation adopted by the NC General Assembly.

It was consensus of Commission to have Ms. Knighton email members links to a summer 2020 webinar that several members of the Town Council viewed with Ms. Knighton and Police Chief King regarding the history of Confederate Monuments.

Mr. Chesson spoke about the current plans and discussions taking place between the Board of Education and Chowan County Commissioners regarding the replacement of John A. Holmes High School and need for a swimming pool to be included in the plans. Mr. Chesson encouraged Commission members to contact County Commissioners and express support for a swimming pool because every single child in our community should be taught drown-proofing life skills. An equitable community should have a public pool.

It was consensus of Commission to express condolences to our Asian community members on the recent mass murders tied to hate that occurred in Atlanta, Georgia. Missie Harrell volunteered to draft letter for publication.

There being no further items of business, the meeting adjourned.

Edenton Human Relations Commission Meeting Minutes  
April 14, 2021

The Edenton Human Relations Commission met in regular session on Wednesday, April 14, 2021 at 5:30 pm in the Council Chambers. The following members were present: Dr. Emma Bonner, Stella Simpson- Brothers, Jim Chesson, Percy Foxwell, Missie Harrell, Marshall Jordan, Jr., John Morehead, Rev. John Shannon, Darnell White, Patricia White and Cynthia Herlong. Absent were Sally Blount, Rebecca Hearn & Miles Coxe. Also present were Mayor Pro Tem Elton Bond, Jr. and Town Manager AnneMarie Knighton.

Rev. Shannon gave the invocation. Motion was made by John Shannon and seconded by Patricia White to approve the minutes of the March 24, 2021 meeting as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

Co-Chair Mike Jordan welcomed Jennifer Finley, Librarian of the Shepard-Pruden Memorial Library to the meeting. Ms. Finley shared with the Commission a collection of electronic files that contain Edenton African American History. The following files were briefly reviewed: Edenton during Reconstruction; Port of Roanoke Records; Lynching of Thomas Earley 1902; Harriet Jacobs Articles; the Edenton Movement; the Confederate Monument 1950 & beyond; Confederate Monument 1900 – 1915; Civil War Life and Laws; and Census Data. The research was compiled as part of a project the Library did entitled 365 days of Black History. (appended to the minutes). Link to files here: [Edenton African American History Google Drive](#) Commission members expressed their appreciation to Ms. Finley for sharing this research. The definition of kerfuffle was duly noted: *a commotion or fuss, especially one caused by conflicting view.*

Commission members discussed the webinar, Balancing Scales of Justice <https://nccred.org/> that was suggested for all to view. Several members of the Town Council viewed the webinar when first presented in July 2020.

Under agenda item #6, Promoting Equality of Opportunity, Anne Marie Knighton presented information regarding the newly created Mayor's Task Force on Litter Prevention, Recycling & the Environment. Ms. Knighton shared the mission statement and goals of the Task Force and said the Council is actively soliciting applications from interested citizens. Link here: [https://www.townofedenton.com/index.asp?SEC=B63AFE35-21EC-4B03-9AD2-498BA3EA7769&DE=C1E9A2E7-F27C-4828-A22C-2ADDC9272952&Type=B\\_PR](https://www.townofedenton.com/index.asp?SEC=B63AFE35-21EC-4B03-9AD2-498BA3EA7769&DE=C1E9A2E7-F27C-4828-A22C-2ADDC9272952&Type=B_PR)

The Co-Chairs recounted that the Edenton Chowan Chamber of Commerce has extended an ex-officio seat on the Chamber's Board of Directors for a member of the Human Relations Commission. The Commission nominated Stella Brothers to be the Commission's ex-officio member on the Chamber Board of Directors. Ms. Stella accepted the nomination and said she looks forward to serving as a conduit between the two boards.

Appreciations were expressed for Jennifer Finley and her presentation. Regrets were expressed about how slow processes take. Other business, Mayor Pro Tem Bond suggested the group be thinking of ways to engage groups who have opinions on the Monument. Is a survey a good way to solicit input or public forums? Discussion ensued about how people may not feel comfortable expressing opinion in a public forum.

It was consensus of the Commission to continue to meet on the second Wednesday and fourth Wednesday of each month for the foreseeable future.

There being no further items of business, the meeting adjourned at 7:15 pm.



Jennifer Finley, Librarian, Shepard-Pruden Memorial Library, April 14, 2021 to Edenton Human Relations Commission

I conducted most of this research over the course of several years as I was putting together the 365 Days of Black History project we created for the library.

The majority of the resources I used are available to the public digitally. I photographed the pamphlet Three Time In Jail by Edward Sutton at UNC Chapel Hill on the way to my parents house for Christmas.

I also worked diligently over the past few years to get the Chowan Herald digitized at DigitalNC.org. The Edenton Womans Club has been a strong supporter of the preservation efforts of The Chowan Herald as well as the Board of Trustees of the Shepard-Pruden Memorial Library. The Womans Club grants have helped pay for the microfilming of the paper (1994-2017) and digitization (1954-1983) efforts.  
<https://www.digitalnc.org/newspapers/the-chowan-herald-edenton-n-c/>

Much of the Black history of the United States is being slowly digitized and transcribed to make it easier for researchers to do their research. The records of the Freedmen's Bureau were microfilmed in two eras - the early 1970s and then the early 2000s. Edenton had a Freedmen's Bureau office in 1867-1868. The Edenton Freedmen's Bureau records are available through FamilySearch.org if you set up a free account. The Smithsonian is doing a volunteer transcribing of these records.  
<https://transcription.si.edu/instructions-freedmens-bureau>

The United State Colored Troops records were not microfilmed until the 1990s and they are only available behind a paywall online. I have not been able to find indexes of these soldiers in book form the way that they exist for other members of the military who fought in the Civil War. The microfilm records are available at the National Archives.

Older newspaper articles are available through NCLive.org NCLive is a state-wide set of databases that colleges, universities and public libraries throughout the state support. I use the Historic North Carolina Newspaper Collection. You can access NCLive.org using a library card number and pin or the password doordraw once you select your home library of the Pettigrew Regional Library System.  
<https://www.nclive.org/>

UNC Chapel Hill has an excellent collection of easy to search historical documents at Documenting the American South.  
<https://docsouth.unc.edu/>

Commemorative Landscapes of North Carolina hosted through Documenting the American South has an extensive database of the monuments across the state and their history.  
<https://docsouth.unc.edu/commland/>  
<https://docsouth.unc.edu/commland/monument/276/>

The lines of poetry on the base are from a poem titled The Battle of Alexandria by James Montgomery.  
<https://www.bartleby.com/297/127.html>

The Shepard-Pruden Memorial Library had the Minutes Book of the Edenton Bell Battery UDC Chapter in its North Carolina History Room. Markita scanned the document to create a pdf. I asked around in my professional contacts about getting the document transcribed and Jennifer Overstreet of the Special Collections Library of ECU volunteered to do it.

I have further suggestions to help you learn more about the Civil War, Reconstruction and post-Reconstruction.

This Republic of Suffering: Death and the American Civil War (2008) by Drew Gilpin Faust. This book tells the story of the "death culture" that arose as a result of the Civil War. The Shepard-Pruden Memorial Library does not have a copy available at the moment, but I can order it.

Professor David Blight is the Sterling Professor of History, of African American Studies, and of American Studies at Yale University. His class The Civil War and Reconstruction Era, 1845-1877 is available as a podcast through your podcatcher of choice.  
<https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/the-civil-war-and-reconstruction-era-1845-1877-audio/id341650730>

Edenton Human Relations Commission Meeting  
Minutes March 10, 2021

The Edenton Human Relations Commission met in regular session on Wednesday, March 10, 2021 at 5:30 pm in the Council Chambers. The following members were present: Emma Bonner, Jim Chesson, Miles Coxe, Percy Foxwell, Missie Harrell, Rebecca Hearn, Marshall Jordan, Jr., John Morehead, Rev. John Shannon, Darnell White, Patricia White and Cynthia Herlong. Absent were Sally Blount and Stella Simpson Brothers. Also present were Mayor Pro Tem Elton Bond, Jr. and Anne Marie Knighton.

Mayor Pro Tem Bond called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone in attendance and also welcomed Dr. Val Batts and Barbara Davis with Visions who were present viz Zoom to observe the meeting. Mayor Pro Tem Bond then passed the gavel to Co-Chairs Mike Jordan and Cynthia Herlong.

Reverend Shannon gave the invocation.

Jim Chesson made a motion to accept the minutes of February 21, 2021 meeting as presented. Patricia White seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Committee members reviewed the updated Draft Suggestions for 2021 Initiatives which include the five goals offered by Miles Coxe.

Commission members reviewed the Draft consensus of the Group's Values Check List

1. Honesty / Integrity /
2. Truth Seeking;
3. Faith / Love;
4. Diversity; Unity / Community
5. Compassion / Empathy

John Morehead, as asked by the Commission last meeting, related his study and research since 2015 on the subject of Edenton's monuments. A summary of his presentation is attached to the minutes, including his May 2017 thoughts toward an inscription for an African-American monument and his July 2020 thoughts toward a marker re-interpreting the Confederate Monument.

There was general discussion about the location of an African-American monument, discussions about S. Broad Street between Queen Street and Church Street and the once proposed Road Diet for Broad Street that would shrink four lanes of traffic to accommodate street trees and bike lanes. Mayor Pro Tem Bond said that plan was rejected by Town Council and is no longer in the Department of Transportation's Plan.

Emma Bonner asked about the status of the Golden Frinks House. Anne Marie said the State Department of Cultural Resources has acquired the property and renovations are underway.

The Commission discussed other initiatives that could be accomplished in a reasonable amount of time. It was suggested that the promotion of equality could be an achievable initiative. Percy Foxwell suggested the Commission learn about the workings and missions of the various town boards and commissions. It was consensus that the chairs of the various boards and commissions be invited, perhaps two chairs per upcoming meetings of the Commission to share the mission and responsibilities. This will help Commission members to recruit applicants to serve. This is in harmony with goal of Commission to promote equality of opportunity for service on town boards and commissions.

Jim Chesson expressed his opinion regarding the Statute. This is tough issue, but encouraged the

Commission not to dodge it because it is going to be difficult. He asked that at the next meeting, members be prepared to discuss their feelings and emotions regarding the Confederate Statute. He encouraged members to think about contextualizing or recontextualizing the Statute.

There being no further items of business the meeting was adjourned.



Summary of Presentation of Ideas  
to Edenton's Human Relations Commission for an  
Equitably Restorative Resolution of the Monument Question  
March 10, 2021, from John Morehead

As Edenton's tendency seems to be creatively to find ways to preserve unusual things that typical towns don't preserve, it has seemed worthwhile to ponder whether there might exist a restoratively equitable way for this challengingly difficult piece of history to be conserved, as part of a broader and positive initiative that Edenton's & Chowan's several communities of citizens perhaps could jointly find to be appropriate.

If & when it's possible for a monument such as ours to be conserved, it likely requires four circumstances: 1st, that its inscriptions be comparatively benign, rather than offensive as some others are; 2nd, that it be made at least balanced, or even over-shadowed, by an equitably compensating nobler or worthier monument; 3rd, that the existing monument be furnished & posted with a reinterpreted perspective adopted collectively by the community to mitigate and to succeed the original context; and 4th, that the monument's existing site be not in front of a courthouse but, mitigated by its reinterpreted perspective, stand in a location that at least architecturally is positive.

As to the 1st circumstance, this monument's very brief inscriptions seem essentially to lament the tragedy of the mistaken War and to memorialize Chowan County's battlefield dead: gashed, fallen, scarred, low, and dead.

As to the 2nd principle, of balance, the proposal here offered is for a monument to our town's & county's African-American citizenry, perhaps both generally and also as exemplified by particular individuals honored—not by personal fame but by their singular devotion to the advancement of our local children & youth. Here offered for such a monument is a succession of three unique teachers so revered, and whom we all would be proud to see publicly memorialized; and as to honoring also our African-American citizenry generally, a sample illustrating examples of possible sentiments for an inscription is hereto attached. And Edenton has demon-

strated recently & repeatedly that for a good cause, the needed funding can be raised here, from benevolent citizens & corporations.

Miss Evalina H. Williams, born in 1853 in New York City and educated at what is now Hunter College in Manhattan, in past connection with the Freedmen's Bureau came to Edenton in 1875 to teach in Edenton's public school for black children, which then stood on the lot now numbered 122 West Free-mason (& 123 West Peterson). In 1884 she married the recently widowed Mr. Hannibal Badham (builder of the Kadesh Church) who soon, beside their own home he had built still standing at 133 East Gale, built her a small private school in which to teach, still standing at 137 East Gale, while she was rearing the four children of their marriage. When they were older, during the Edenton Normal & Industrial School's tenure from 1908 to ca. 1927 behind Kadesh Church, Mrs. Badham taught there and served as its Dean of Girls.

The Revd. Simeon Nathaniel Griffith, born in 1885 in British Guiana and emigrating in 1905 to the United States, received his bachelor's degree from Shaw University and his pastoral education from the Bishop Payne Divinity School and the General Theological Seminary, and in 1914 was ordained to the Episcopal ministry. Later having begun studies at the Boston University Medical School, he consented in 1920 to come to Edenton as rector of Edenton's Church of St. John the Evangelist, until his 1951 retirement, and simultaneously from 1920 as principal of the adjoining St. John's Episcopal School, also still standing at 216 East Church—where as one of the three teachers of the eighty pupils in its eight grades, he "taught the children whether [their parents] paid [the tuition] or not" and (after the Kadesh high school's closing ca. 1927) arranged scholarships for his pupils to attend high school at St. Augustine's in Raleigh. After the Rosenwald Edenton Graded School in 1932 superseded the Episcopal School, and he & his wife having no children of their own, Mr. Griffith

then served the Edenton School District more than twenty years until 1961 as principal, besides as the teacher of jointly its 6th & 7th grades, of the Rosenwald public St. John's School, still standing on the Indian Trail in Yeopim Township.

Mr. DeMint Frazier Walker, born 1903 in Scottsboro, Alabama, earned his B.A. from Talladega College in 1929, his M.A. from Hampton Institute in 1941, and a further master's degree from New York University in 1950. For 31 years he served as principal of the Rosenwald Edenton High School, which opened on North Oakum in 1932 and was re-named as the D. F. Walker High School in 1963, and which served from 1932 until 1969 as the high school for the black students in both the Edenton District and the Chowan District. He & his wife having no children of their own, Professor Walker was & remains legendary for his devotion to the education & citizenship of his students and for the superlative standards to which he held them. Governor Luther Hodges recognized his Statewide eminence by appointing him as one of only five educators to sit on the General Assembly's 1959-1960 special Commission for the Study of Teacher Merit Pay and a Revised Public School Curriculum for North Carolina. Besides his Providence Baptist Church funeral, upon his death in 1983 he was honored with a school-wide outdoor memorial service by the students of his High School here.

The site suggested for such a new monument is South Broad's first block, being Broad Street's sole block widened to five lanes, where at the block's midpoint the center lane is not used and thus could handily host the monument, aligned precisely with the new courthouse's front door, and thus positioned to stand at the top or head of South Broad, surveying the business district and looking down onto the old monument at the foot or bottom of South Broad. And the new monument, encircled of course by suitable curbing or further protective shielding, would have maximum exposure & visibility, erected in the center of the street and in the block enjoying certainly the highest daily traffic count in our famed Historic District.

Then as to the 3rd principle, of posting

the existing monument with a re-interpreted perspective adopted collectively by the community, and in a dignified manner avoiding unneeded disparagement, the suggestion offered here, since the monument's original subject is our South and the tragedy of the mistaken War, is the idea of adopting & posting a re-conception focusing on the positives of our common culture shared & appreciated by our South's black & white folk together. A sample illustrating examples of possible sentiments for such a marker is attached hereto. Resembling North Carolina's traditional Highway historical markers, and similar to the pole-markers erected for Dr. King in front of the Armory, for Penelope Barker in front of the Barker House, for the Tea Party Chapter in front of the Iredell House, and for Harriet Jacobs in front of the Ziegler House, a two-sided marker could be erected, facing east & west, near the south side of the existing monument, to make it most accessible for reading by tourists boarding the Historic Edenton trolley bus and by local pedestrians visiting the waterfront park or the Barker House.

Finally is the 4th consideration, that the old monument exist not planted in front of the courthouse but, mitigated by its re-interpreted perspective, that it be standing in a location that at least architecturally is positive. From the early planned capitals Paris and Washington to the recent American "new urbanism" or "neo-traditional" designs for progressive communities, one principle of urban planning is that an avenue such as Edenton's Broad Street should have some architectural focus centered at its terminus. Thus when Edenton's waterfront was beginning its transition from industrial works & wharves toward a public park & tourism, in 1961 there was appropriated from the old courthouse lawn the monument, impressive indeed architecturally, to serve as a stately visual terminus—inviting the public to proceed even to the end of Broad Street and now to see there, instead of smokestacks and fish houses, the re-located Barker House and the beginnings of a waterfront park. If the citizens can adopt and post a re-conception of the monument's meaning as recited above, then the community and visitors can continue to appreciate its monumental architecture's contribution to Edenton's elegantly



grand vista through the downtown shopping district to the waterfront.

In summary, a creatively imaginative resolution of the monument's difficulty could avoid division & bitterness and instead could complete Edenton's transition, from the one monument's past veiling of the earlier courthouse before 1961, to its repurposing

then as monumental street architecture, to its re-conception now as an adopted symbol of the assembly of the many elements of our common heritage in which each of us can take pride, to finally a remedially curative second monument standing with dignity in front of the new courthouse doors and marking the entry to Historic Edenton's thriving center of daily community activity.

Thoughts toward an inscription for a new monument honoring & memorializing the African-American citizenry generally (composed May 31, 2017):

Erected  
humbly by their fellow citizens  
with profoundest and eternal  
gratitude and admiration  
in memory and honor of the  
African-American Citizenry  
past and present and their ancestors who  
for three centuries have given themselves  
with sacrificially generous loving kindness  
as a Christ-like example and offering and so  
as the steadfast daily and hourly blessing  
of Edenton and of Chowan County and  
as well upon all the people here and unto  
the common good and the peace of God  
which passeth all understanding.  
A.D. 2021

Thoughts toward an inscription for a marker adopting a re-conception of the old monument, so re-interpreting it as instead a tribute to the positive aspects of the heritage that we hold in common (composed July 13, 2020):

We the black citizens and white citizens  
of Edenton and Chowan County  
together adopt this monument as  
representing the American South land  
formed and built by and consisting  
of its black folk and white folk together  
and their shared common culture  
of wisdom, literature, manners, table fare,  
speech, art, music, religion, blessing,  
love, and family, all constituting  
our South's history which also is flawed  
like the history of every land  
but which stained and blemished past  
our white citizens and black citizens  
seek today to redeem together in  
love and respect and esteem and kindness  
and good will toward each other and in  
protecting and defending each other and  
working always for the best for each other  
because as black citizens and white citizens  
to be Southern together we are blessed.  
A.D. 2021

Edenton Human Relations Commission Meeting Minutes  
February 21, 2021

The Edenton Human Relations Commission met in regular session on Wednesday, February 21, 2021 at 5:30 pm in the Council Chambers. The following members were present: Emma Bonner, Stella Simpson-Brothers, Jim Chesson, Miles Cox, Percy Foxwell, Missie Harrell, Rebecca Hearn, Marshall Jordan, Jr., John Morehead, Rev. John Shannon, Darnell White, Patricia White and Cynthia Herlong. Absent was Sally Blount. Also present were Mayor Pro Tem Elton Bond, Jr. and Anne Marie Knighton.

Mayor Pro Tem Bond called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone in attendance. Mike Jordan gave an invocation.

Missie Harrell made a motion to accept the minutes of February 10, 2021 meeting with correction showing John Morehead in attendance. Darnell White seconded the motion. The Motion carried unanimously.

Committee members spent time reviewing the Draft Suggestions for 2021 Initiatives. Miles Cox reviewed five goals for the commission (appended to the minutes).

Commission members participated in a group activity, each member identified their top five values from the Values Checklist. After everyone shared their top five values, the group worked to identify top values shared by the group: *(Group needs to review with me and make sure I captured correctly)*

1. Honesty / Integrity /
2. Truth Seeking;
3. Faith / Love;
4. Diversity; Unity / Community
5. Compassion / Empathy

It was consensus that the foundation for initiatives be rooted in these values. The Commission should try to narrow their focus and find one or two initiatives that would be accomplishable. Discussion took place around how more challenging or controversial initiatives may best be worked on later when the Commission has had time to grow and solidify.

Discussion took place about the Confederate Statute. Is discussion about what to do about the Statute a short term initiative or a long-term initiative? Questions arose about the history of the statute, how was it funded, why was it moved from the original location on the Courthouse Green to the end of South Broad Street? What is the law now regarding monuments on public property?

John Morehead offered to share research he did on the issue of the Statute. Mayor Pro Tem Bond invited John to present his information to the Commission at the next meeting.

Mayor Pro Tem Bond asked if the group was ready to elect Co-Chairs. Darnell White made motion to elect Mike Jordan and Cynthia Herlong to be the Co-Chairs of the Commission. Percy Foxwell seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

There being no further items of business, the meeting adjourned.



Edenton Human Relations Commission Meeting Minutes  
February 10, 2021

The Edenton Human Relations Commission met in regular session on Wednesday, February 10, 2021 at 5:30 pm in the Council Chambers. The following members were present: Dr. Emma Bonner, Stella Simpson- Brothers, Jim Chesson, Miles Coxe, Percy Foxwell, Missie Harrell, Rebecca Hearn, Marshall Jordan, Jr., Rev. John Shannon, John Morehead, Darnell White, Patricia White and Cynthia Herlong. Absent was Sally Blount. Also present were Mayor Pro Tem Elton Bond, Jr. and Town Manager Anne Marie Knighton.

Mayor Pro-Tem Bond welcomed everyone to the meeting and asked Percy Foxwell to give invocation. Motion was made by Darnell White and seconded by Missie Harrell to approve the minutes of the February 20, 2021 meeting as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Knighton reported that Val Batts and Barbara Davis were not with us tonight, that the Council had approved four sessions with Visions to assist the Commission. We have one more session under this agreement and expect that within the next month or so we may need Vision's assistance. Also, if additional assistance is needed and if the Commission identifies other resources that are needed and helpful, Mayor Pro Tem Bond will present the requests to the Council for consideration.

Mayor Pro Tem Bond asked the members to review the list of suggested initiatives and look to opportunities to align initiatives that are similar or are in harmony. There was discussion regarding the scope the Commission's work in reference to Town of Edenton and Chowan County. The Town Council created the Commission and its work and recommendations should focus on policies and programs that impact the jurisdiction of the Town.

It was suggested that the alignment of initiatives include a description of the jurisdiction or entity impacted -the Town and or Chowan County. Also, it was suggested the alignments should include assignment of categories of goals to initiatives: Institutional, Interpersonal, Personal & Cultural. The Commission realigned initiatives, assigned jurisdiction and goals to the initiatives. Ms. Knighton offered to edit and send out draft of the Alignment of Initiatives prior to the February 24<sup>th</sup> Commission meeting.

Mayor Pro Tem Bond reminded members of the need to appoint Co-Chairs.

There being no further items of business, the meeting adjourned at 7:15 pm.

Edenton Human Relations Commission Meeting Minutes  
January 20, 2021

The Edenton Human Relations Commission met in regular session on Wednesday, January 20, 2021 at 5:30 pm in the Council Chambers. The following members were present: Sally Blount, Stella Simpson-Brothers, Jim Chesson, Miles Coxe, Percy Foxwell, Missie Harrell, Rebecca Hearn, Marshall Jordan, Jr., Rev. John Shannon, Darnell White, Patricia White and Cynthia Herlong. Absent was Dr. Emma Bonner. Also present were Mayor Pro Tem Elton Bond, Jr., Anne Marie Knighton, Dr. Val Batts and Barbara Davis with Visions, Inc.

Mayor Pro Tem Bond welcomed everyone to the first meeting of the Edenton Human Relations Commission and expressed appreciation on behalf of the Mayor and Town Council for members willingness to serve. Reverend Shannon delivered the invocation.

Members briefly introduce themselves and shared thoughts about being selected to serve as a member of the Inaugural Commission.

Val Batts and Barbara Davis with Visions, Inc. refreshed and reviewed the key points from the October 2020 Training Workshop: Guidelines for authentic conversations; enhancing racial harmony, bridging racial gaps; addressing Edenton's past in all its dimensions including the role of old fashion racism; and learning how to identify and challenge modern racism.

The Commission reached consensus on short-term meeting schedule: meet the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday in February, March & April, and then consider meeting once a month going forward in May. It was the consensus to also meet at 5:30 pm try to conclude meetings no later than 7:30 pm.

Mayor Pro Tem Bond asked the group to be thinking a process to select Co-Chairs to help lead the Commission and preside over future meetings. Anne Marie Knighton suggested a future session include an overview of NC Open Meetings Statutes and Governance.

Ms. Knighton reviewed concept of including educational sessions or educational components as part of future meetings.

Ms. Knighton suggested that for the next meeting, commission members identify three short-term goals or initiatives for the Commission to consider undertaking. Members were asked to either write down goals and turn in to Ms. Knighton that evening or to email their goals/initiatives to Ms. Knighton. All of the initiatives will be put into one document and shared with Commission Members to begin reviewing at subsequent meetings.

Dr. Batts and Ms. Davis reviewed the Visions, Inc. tool for use when concluding meetings – members expressed appreciation and regrets each experienced from this meeting.

There being no further items of discussion, the meeting was adjourned.



## Edenton Human Relations Commission Meeting Minutes

March 24, 2021

The Edenton Human Relations Commission met in regular session on Wednesday, March 24, 2021 at 5:30 pm in the Council Chambers. The following members were present: Dr. Emma Bonner, Stella Simpson- Brothers, Jim Chesson, Percy Foxwell, Missie Harrell, Rebecca Hearn, Marshall Jordan, Jr., John Morehead, Rev. John Shannon, Darnell White, Patricia White and Cynthia Herlong. Absent was Sally Blount & Miles Coxe. Also present were Mayor Pro Tem Elton Bond, Jr. and Town Manager Anne Marie Knighton.

Co-Chair Jordan called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone to the meeting. Mr. Jordan introduced Mayor Jimmy Stallings. Mayor thanked the Commission members for their willingness to serve and extended appreciation from the Town Council as well. Mayor emphasized if in the future the Commission needed any support from the Council to please share that request with Mayor Pro-Tem Bond and he will communicate the request to the Council.

Stella Brothers gave the invocation. Motion was made by Darnell White and seconded by Stella Brothers to approve the minutes of the February 20, 2021 meeting as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

Co-Chair Cynthia Herlong reviewed proposed amendment to the agenda. It was recommendation of the Co-Chairs that going forward agenda items be aligned with the Commission's Goals. Consensus of the group was to work to align agenda items with either Internal or External Goals.

Co-Chair Jordan welcomed and introduced Planning Board Chairman Bob Partin and Edenton Chowan Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Susan Creed to the meeting. Mr. Partin reviewed the duties and responsibilities of the Edenton Planning Board. Mr. Partin explained the recent activities of the Board and described the membership of the Board. Seven members, three women and four men. One of the seven members is African American female. Mr. Partin explained the residency requirement of the one-mile extra territorial jurisdiction (ETJ). Chowan County Board of Commissioners appoint two of the seven members and those two appointees must live in the one-mile ETJ. Town Council appoints five members who must be residents of the Town of Edenton.

Susan Creed reviewed the mission and goals of the Edenton Chowan Chamber of Commerce. Ms. Creed said during February, Black History Month, it became clear to her that a goal should be greater diversity amongst the Chamber membership and its Board of Directors. She extended an invitation to the Commission to appoint a member to serve as an ex-officio member of the Board of Directors. The Board meets once a month, 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday at 8 am. Board members provide leadership to the business community and support Chamber programs.

The Commission members thanked Mr. Partin and Ms. Creed for enlightening them on the mission and duties of their respective boards. It was recommended that the Commission be informed in the future of any vacancies on the Town Boards and Commissions so that commission members encourage citizens to apply to serve. Commission requested in future presentations from Bob Hopkins, Site Manager, Historic Edenton State Historic Sites; Deborah Davis, Executive Director Edenton Housing Authority; and other Town Boards and Commissions Chairs. Also, it was suggested presentations from the Civic League, the Chowan County Chapter of NAACP and leadership in the Hispanic community be scheduled as well.

Commission asked Ms. Knighton to get list of African American businesses within the Chowan County from the Chamber of Commerce.

Co-Chair Herlong reminded group of the Town Council's Mission for the Commission, everyone has a voice



and Commission should strive to follow up and or confirm consensus when consensus is reached. Ms. Herlong suggested that members would benefit from more education regarding the Internal Goal related to the Confederate Monument before the Commission talks to the community or receives input from the community. Also, it was recommendation of the Co-Chairs that going forward agenda items be aligned with the Commission's Goals. Consensus of the group was to work to align agenda items with either Internal or External Goals.

It was consensus to invite Shepard-Pruden Memorial Librarian Jennifer Finlay to the April 14<sup>th</sup> Meeting to share research she has archived related to the (Chowan County) Confederate Monument. Members are particularly interested in learning about the relocation of the Monument from the Chowan County Courthouse Green to South Broad Street. Also, the Commission would like to hear from Town Attorney Hood Ellis on the 2015 legislation adopted by the NC General Assembly.

It was consensus of Commission to have Ms. Knighton email members links to a summer 2020 webinar that several members of the Town Council viewed with Ms. Knighton and Police Chief King regarding the history of Confederate Monuments.

Mr. Chesson spoke about the current plans and discussions taking place between the Board of Education and Chowan County Commissioners regarding the replacement of John A. Holmes High School and need for a swimming pool to be included in the plans. Mr. Chesson encouraged Commission members to contact County Commissioners and express support for a swimming pool because every single child in our community should be taught drown-proofing life skills. An equitable community should have a public pool.

It was consensus of Commission to express condolences to our Asian community members on the recent mass murders tied to hate that occurred in Atlanta, Georgia. Missie Harrell volunteered to draft letter for publication.

There being no further items of business, the meeting adjourned.