



Sons of the American Revolution

Ohio Society

Organized April 22, 1889

FORT LAURENS RECONSTRUCTION LIAISON COMMITTEE Activity Report Fall Board of Management October 17, 2020

July 30th: A new Ohio Historical Marker was installed near the front entrance to the grounds of Fort Laurens.

Also being installed are new outdoor plexiglass storyboard signs to replace the older weathered storyboard signs explaining the history of Fort Laurens. Included in the new storyboards are etchings in the clear plexiglass so visitors can better envision how the fort and its buildings looked on the original site.

August 31st: The first formal meeting in a year was held by members of the Fort Laurens Rebuild Exploration Committee, chaired by Darrell Markijohn, via a Zoom virtual gathering. SAR members present were John Franklin, Bob Hill, and Al Gummere.

First discussed were opinions on the revised blueprint map of the proposed build site created by Bramhall Engineering & Surveying Company of Avon, Ohio. Major modifications are a parking lot north of the museum, and a secondary entrance further south to allow a separate entrance for those who use the horse and bike trail. The fort retains the same orientation as the original fort footprint, but is south of the original footprint and slightly west (into the open field across from the museum and tomb). The museum will remain but be updated and enlarged. The tomb, restroom, and front entrance will remain.

Representing the Ohio History Connection was Bill Kennedy. He told us of huge budget cuts (capital budgets) at OHC this year. Nonetheless, he says there are “small rumblings” at OHC on what might be done for the 250th Anniversary of the American Revolution.

For any building plans to go forward, a comprehensive business plan must be drawn up that includes estimates on construction (contractors will be asked to bid) and operating costs. The committee requested that the Ohio History Connection provide a solid “punch list” of requirements it wants met in writing, and that once met, the “goal posts won’t be moved” to impede construction.

A fraternal and civic society composed of lineal descendants of the men who wintered at Valley Forge, signed the Declaration of Independence, fought in the battles of the American Revolution, served in the Continental Congress, or otherwise supported the cause of American Independence.

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The Committee will next meet when the OHC provides this list of requirements. Once OHC approves a business plan, an archaeological survey will be conducted on the proposed building site, fundraising will begin in earnest and will include applying for grants.

Respectfully Submitted,

William Robert Hill

OHSSAR Fort Laurens Reconstruction Liaison Committee Chair

*Much of this report was written earlier by me and is found in the Fall 2020 edition of The Ohio Country Bulletin, page 7.

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