

Community Players of Salisbury Monthly Board Meeting

April 1, 2026

Call to Order by President Darrell Mullins at 6:00 pm

Board Members Present: Darrell Mullins, Kyle Hayes, Melissa Dasher, Rusty Mumford, Charlie Linton, Matt Bogdan, David Allen, Lynne Bratten, Kim Cuesta, Pete Cuesta, Ken Johnson, Betsy Metzger, Tom Robinson, Charlie Szentesi-Thomas, Shelbie Thompson

Board Members Absent: none

Members Present: Kate Adkins, Bobbie Calloway, Cass Dasher, Kel Nagel, Josh Smith

Guests Present: none

Approval of March 4, 2026, Meeting Minutes

Minutes were e-mailed to the Board prior to the meeting. Motion to approve by Rusty M, seconded by Betsy M. All responded yea. Motion Passed.

Treasurer's Report

Reports were e-mailed to the Board prior to the meeting. Brief update given by Charlie L.

President's Report

Received a thank you note from The Salisbury School for the loan of set pieces, props and costumes. Excited to see *Old Hams*. Set is gorgeous. Also received a thank you card from Habit for Humanity for our donation to their auction.

Committee Reports

Concessions - Brenda Allen No Report

***Costumes – Lynne Bratten** Several donations of quality items have been received by Community Players, including military items from a college friend's Navy Academy husband and her father. Items from member family Pete and Kim Cuesta. Jewelry items from a church friend of Tom Robinson. All donations have been offered a written acknowledgment if requested.

Costume regrouping and organizing will be a priority in June and July 2026. Dates and times will be announced closer.

We would welcome donations of colonial outfits suitable for the production of 1776. Contact me if you have something in your closets that could work. We do not currently have space for additional colonial female outfits.

Several members have requested items from the inventory and have not returned them. Remember that bringing them back, clean and ready to be put into inventory, is part of the plan. Please contact Lynne at 443-880-3543 to set up a mutually convenient time to process the return of items. Never leave them on a table without checking them in. Failure could cause privilege to be revoked or if item goes missing the member could be held liable for the outfit. We use Zipps for dry cleaning when needed but check with Lynne if you have cleaning questions.

Facilities Management - Ken Johnson No Report (See New Business)

Fundraising - Matt Bogdan

1. Our second annual Spring Craft and Vendor Fair was held Saturday, March 28, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Community Players' Theater. Thanks to all who were involved in this fundraiser,

especially Wendy Stever for coordinating the event and David Allen for his work with getting the vendors in their places. We raised \$1400.

2. We are looking for teams to compete in the Community Players' Friendly Feud Fundraiser to be held April 23-26 at Community Players' Theater. We need 16 teams to compete for the grand prize of \$500, with a second-place prize of \$250. Each team will consist of five members (friends, family, coworkers), answering survey questions with the aim to score more points than the other team. The first set of eight teams will battle it out on Thursday, April 23, from 7 to 10 p.m., and the second set of eight teams will battle it out on Friday, April 24, from 7 to 10 p.m. Winners advance to play on Saturday, April 25, from 7 to 10 p.m. Saturday winners advance to the semifinals and finals, to be held on Sunday, April 26, from 2 to 4 p.m. Cost of registration is \$100 per team. If you do not want to enter a team but would like to watch the teams battle it out, admission is \$10 at the door. If you are interested in entering a team, contact Matt Bogdan at 443-235-3272 or oceancityhappyme@aol.com. The Friendly Feud Fundraiser is sponsored in part by Guardian Pest Control. We thank them for their support. UPDATE: At this time we only have 2 teams registered and paid. If we do not get more interest, we will cancel this event.

3. *America 250: A Birthday Celebration* will take place on June 26 and June 27 at 7:30 p.m. and June 28 at 2 p.m. at the Community Players' Theater. Sponsored by the Wicomico Historical Society in cooperation with Community Players, a two-act presentation of patriotic speeches, songs, poems, stories and slides will celebrate America's 250th birthday. The band WW2's, who played in last year shows commemorating the men and women of the Eastern Shore who participated in WW2, will be playing, as well. Admission is free; donations accepted. If you are interested in being in the production as a speaker or singer, contact Matt Bogdan at 443-235-3272 or oceancityhappyme@aol.com. Auditions to be held at Players on May 3 at 2 p.m. for dramatic readers and singers. No memorization required.

Grants - Matt Bogdan

1. The Community Foundation of the Eastern Shore granted the Community Players an award of \$2400 to be used to help pay the stipends of counselors at the Summer Youth Drama Workshop to be held in July 2026. The Coastal Association of Realtors also contributed \$1000 toward the cause. We thank these organizations for their support.

2. As noted in our last newsletter, the Community Players has been awarded a \$150,000 Challenge Grant from the Richard A. Henson Foundation so that Players can complete renovations on the Community Players' Theater at 5109 Nutters Cross Road in Salisbury. Renovations include installing handicapped bathrooms, dressing rooms, and costume storage. In order for Players to receive the \$150,000, we need to raise \$150,000. One way to donate to this worthy cause is to go to our website at Sbyplayers.org. On the home page click on the donate button which takes you to the Players' Capital Campaign page. There, donations can be made by credit or debit card. If you prefer to write a check, make the check out to Community Foundation of The Eastern Shore, with Community Players' Capital Campaign fund on the memo line. Mail the check to Community Foundation of the Eastern Shore, 1324 Belmont Ave., Suite 401, Salisbury, MD 21804. All donations will be acknowledged and tracked by the Community Foundation of the Eastern Shore, who will verify compliance with IRS and other regulations. Your donation will be instrumental in helping the Community Players' mission of encouraging education, interest, and participation in theater and providing quality theatrical productions for local audiences. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Kel Nagel, Capital Campaign Chairperson, at 410-726-0670.

Historical - Bonnie Bosies No Report

Hospitality - Rusty Mumford Nothing new to report

House - Betsy Metzger Call for ushers for *Old Hams* has gone out.

Lifetime Achievement Awards – Sharon Benchoff Nothing new to report

Marketing - No Report

Membership - Melissa Dasher Nothing new to report

Nominating - Sharon Benchoff Nominations are now open for officers and board members. Nominations will close at the end of the May meeting. All who are nominated must be up to date with their dues.

Patrons - Kel Nagel Get one or 2 new patrons every month. Can we give tickets to Patron who pay for new year tickets to 1776? No motion made.

Performance Space - Kel Nagel No report until capital campaign is funded.

Production – Kyle Hayes Voting tonight

Program / Program Advertising - Tom Robinson Almost ready to print next program

Publicity – Pete Cuesta Nothing to Report

Scholarship - Lynne Bratten At this time 3 students have completed applications on file and the deadline has passed. The applications will be sent to board members for scoring prior to the May meeting. It would be my intention to have scores ready to present at the May meeting, followed by a vote of the board to confirm the choice. Players awards two \$500 awards to senior students attending public, private or homeschooling programs. All applicants must have participated in Players programming and be attending a college or university program in the fall of 2027. The three applicants have all met these criteria.

Season Tickets & Box Office - Rusty Mumford Tickets are selling. Both Sundays are almost sold out.

Social Media – Cass Dasher & Mary Cathell Meet the cast posts start tonight. Save to date for youth workshops went out.

Old Business

- **Code of Ethics-Kyle Hayes**

Committee met and created a document which was sent to the Board previously. Will create a job description for the Liaison. Neutral party will come to meet the cast and crew, maybe to table read, and provide contact info. Motioned to approve document as presented by Melissa D, seconded by Tom R. All responded yea. Motion Passed.

- **Website Update-Darrell Mullins**

Meet with Will and Kyle. A couple more things to tweak. Goal to have it running by announcement of new season. Need to find a way to thank Tom Welsh for all his work over the years.

- **Capital Campaign**

Minutes from Special Board meeting are attached. Send a full email blast to get more expertise on the committee. See Darrell to join the committee. Many Patrons have made additional donations to the Capital Fund. Rusty will be sending Players thank you letters in addition to the letter they receive from the Community Foundation. Henson does not expect naming rights. Would like a plaque. Give programs from spring recitals, other shows, etc. to Lynne.

- **Other Old Business**

- **Youth Workshops.** – Committee met, created a timeline, Save the date announcement went out. Registration form will go out in next newsletter and on social media in mid-April. Will start councilor application soon. May present a combined performance from both workshops on Saturday, July 18th, for community to attend.

New Business

- **1776 Auditions: Darrell Mullins for Sharon Benchoff**

Auditions are this coming Sunday, Monday, Tuesday at 7:00 pm at Christ Church in the auditorium.

- **All County Musical Request-Ken Johnson**

Permission to hang a banner during *Old Hams*. Would like to borrow the genie lift. Yes, and yes.

- **Summer Plans- Set Construction - Ken Johnson**

Would like to rebuild a lot of our walls, door frames, archways & windows. 8 and 10 ft. Audience is so close we can see all flaws. Also need to tighten up the stage. Will work up a dollar amount by the May meeting. Will work on the stage after the Youth Workshop in July and before the Review in late August. Also, there will be a show here June 26-28. Will work around.

- **Burned Out Light – David Allen**

Motion for \$150 to replace a house light by David A, seconded by Tom R. All responded yea. Motion Passed.

- **Other New Business**

- **Assisted hearing device.** Set of 4 receivers and 1 transmitter for \$ 2600. Is there grant money available? Do they only work with mic packs? Work well with hanging mics. Has anybody ever asked for them? Who would be in charge of this? Can we search for a grant first? Can we reach out to DELA for resources? Motion by David, seconded by Tom. All nay. Motion failed

- This **Saturday Salisbury Marathon**, can they set up a water station and a porta potty in our parking lot and can we supply 3 workers at 7-9am to pour the water? Yes. Email David if available to help in the next 24 hours. Tom will send an email blast.

- Congrats to Shelbie and Josh on their engagement.

- **2026-2027 Season Vote**

The Board voted to accept the Production Committee's recommendations. The following are our next season Main Stage shows, pending receipt of the rights.

November - *Come From Away*

January/February - *Buddies*

April – *Birthday Candles*

June – *Clue: On Stage*

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn by Rusty, seconded by Tom. All responded yea. Motion Passed.

Meeting adjourned at 6:57 pm.

Next Meeting Wednesday, May 6, 2026, at 6:00pm.