

PWC - HISTORIC BUILDINGS BEN LOMOND

Cole Makes Second Call for Account of Ben Lomond Funds

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VIRGINIANA FILE BY RICHARD LEIGH
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Responding to a call for an accounting of funds spent to renovate the Ben Lomond Manor by Gainesville Supervisor Robert Cole, the Prince William County Cultural Arts Federation "did the best it could" largely with no guidance, said Executive Director Roger Maier.

An audit of monies received and spent when a program changes from one agency to another is "prudent management," said Cole. "I'm not making any accusations of wrongdoing. But state and local funds are involved, and an accounting should be made." Cole had called for that accounting earlier this year.

All state funds allocated to the federation for renovations to the manor have been spent, said Maier.

As of September, the federation will perform no more renovation work at the house. Any further renovation on the property will be performed by the county Park Authority, which has done renovation work on the farmhouse.

The General Assembly twice amended its budget to fund work at the manor — in the amount of \$30,000 in 1986, and in the amount of \$40,000 in 1988. The funds are being administered by the state Division of Historic Landmarks.

The \$30,000 authorized in 1986, received as reimbursements for spent county funds, was used for restoration, repair, code work, and site plans from 1985 to August 1988, said Roger Maier, president of the federation.

Also used for these expenditures was \$40,000 in county funds. This was composed of \$10,000 in June 1984 from the supervisors, another \$10,000 from the supervisors through the park authority in April 1985, and \$20,000 from the supervisors through the park authority from December 1987.

Funds from state and county sources total \$70,000. Spent by the federation was \$59,015.55. While interest accrued in bank accounts and small donations total \$1,194.33, the federation has a total of \$12,178.78 to return to the park authority, Maier said.

All work performed by the federation, using money from any source, was See Ben Lomond on A-3.

Ben Lomond

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on the manor house itself, said Maier. An audit is being performed on the federation's part of the project and will be submitted to the park authority when complete, he said.

The federation sought to use the building for its meetings, but only did so for two meetings, said Maier. The federation's lease on the building from the park authority was "inadequate," he said.

"That building was rotting and falling apart," said Maier. "I can find people who can look at it and say, 'you've done a lot.'" Others might ask what was done, he said.

Of the first grant, \$13,824.80 was received in June 1987, and \$16,175.20 was received in July 1988, according to Maier's records.

A second grant of \$40,000, was approved in the 1988 legislative session.

Whether the second grant, written for the federation, may be transferred to the park authority is being explored by the attorney general's office, said Ann Miller, state grants coordinator. "I don't expect it will be a problem," she said.

No funds have been spent from the second grant yet, said Miller.

The attorney's general office is examining whether the grant application should be resubmitted with the park authority's name included, or whether the name on the grant can be changed.

Some of the work performed on the building included installing security lights, furnace and boiler repair, radiator repair, bringing the building up to electrical and fire marshal's codes, replacing windows, installing two new bathrooms, new roofing on the kitchen and basement stairway, removal of carpeting, replacement of portico columns, installation of copper baseboard in kitchen, new hot water heater, repairing fire damage to wall and cabinets in kitchen, replace kitchen subflooring, removal of old kitchen pipes under kitchen floor, removal of lattice around kitchen, pine siding in kitchen, replacing two screen doors, removing trash and debris around kitchen area, new kitchen porch and deck, copper guttering, new flashing on kitchen and shed, scraping and painting all exterior wood and metal, emergency shoring of portico, reattaching the portico to the house, removing roof from kitchen stairs and porch, removing debris and poison ivy, removing wallpaper, removing carpet, cleaning floors, cleaning fireplaces, exterior roof repair, replacing screen doors damaged by vandals, cleaning plumbing traps, trimming bushes, maintaining furnace, installing automatic light timers for Christmas lights, caulking, stripping, and painting, refinishing doors, replacing two gables, and replacing flashing.

The only item that the state Division of Historic Landmarks would not reimburse, Maier said, was the blown-in insulation in the kitchen walls.

Prince William Public Library
Manassas, Va.

REFERENCE