

BEN FRANKLIN SOCIETY (BFS)  
Initial Meeting Detailed Agenda  
Thursday, September 25, 2008 @ 7:00pm  
County Commissioners Room, Louisburg

**1. Brief Welcoming Comments**

- a. Welcome, Familiar & New Faces – Great! – mention Master Sign-in Sheet
- b. 1<sup>st</sup> of 3 Meetings (Oct & Nov 2008) this fall to kickoff BFS for 2009.
- c. Purpose: (1) I want you to VOLUNTEER, (2) Join BFS and (3) Work on a worthwhile project. **YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE!** Because I am a VOLUNTEER – I understand that **ONE PERSON CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE!** As Ag Board Chairman, Co-Chair w/Martha Mobley of the FCFT, CDP (FC Comprehensive Development Plan) public participant, outspoken proponent for Agri/Eco/Recreational Tourism in FC (Drive Sales Tax \$ Revenue), Webmaster of FC FarmFresh website. I will continue to **LEAD-BY-EXAMPLE!**
- d. BFS not about ME or about what I want you to do - I am simply a catalyst/agent of change; rather, about You and "What You Want To Do"
- e. BFS IS NOT about Ben Franklin, but A **TRIBUTE TO HIS GENIUS** for "Finding Practical Solutions to Real Problems" – More about Ben Franklin at 3<sup>rd</sup> Meeting (November) that will kick-off BFS
- f. I need to answer the following (3) questions for you this evening:
  - i. ***Why should you VOLUNTEER?***
  - ii. ***Why should you join the BFS?***
  - iii. ***What can you do that is worthwhile?***
- g. Tonight you will learn that your entry point to participate in a BFS Research Project - "Overlooked Opportunities" as I call them.
- h. Each of you will then have an ample opportunity to tell us **WHAT YOU WOULD LIKE TO DO FOR FC**
- i. The Panel will characterize some Candidate Projects to help give you some ideas – Brief Introductions – Presentation, Q&A later this evening
  - i. Tom Magnuson – PBS/TV/Exploring NC
  - ii. ~~Mary Ann Brittain~~ – PBS/TV/Exploring NC
  - iii. Scott Hammerbacher – CDP
  - iv. Eddie Ingram – Senior HS Project Requirement
  - v. ~~Gary Cunard~~ – Franklin Times

***Why should you VOLUNTEER?***

**2. History speaks to us**

- a. Franklin County was named after Ben Franklin (while alive) in 1799. Felt it was appropriate to honor Ben Franklin's (1706-1790) life quest to ***Find Practical Solutions to Real Problems*** by naming the BFS – he was a Model Volunteer - individual Think Tank – a national hero
- b. Read Alexis de Toqueville's 1835 comments – on VOLUNTEERISM - waiting is futile; more government is ineffective and expensive
- c. We must "Start Solving Problems Ourselves" – a collective Think Tank!
- d. Franklin County has Tremendous Potential and many Overlooking Resources that are Off-the-Radar – **YOUR IDEAS!**

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*Why should you join the BFS?*

**3. BFS is a DIFFERENT TYPE of Service Organization**

- a. Why?
  - i. 2+ yrs analyzing existing FC organizations - “tired”, EXCLUSIVE
  - ii. FC needs to get new folks involved – new blood - Energy, Enthusiasm, Youth, Action!
  - iii. Need broader scope - “Future Value to the County” - INCLUSIVE
  - iv. Must leverage our impact
  - v. Need to increase quality of life in FC, while reducing future development impact costs
- b. How? Innovative Organizational Approach – NEW MOTIVATORS
  - i. Project-centric (bottom-up) vs. Organization-centric (to-down)
  - ii. Active vs. Passive Involvement
  - iii. Members work independently vs. executive committee
  - iv. Mentoring tie-in with our Students vs. isolated activity
  - v. Exciting Quarterly Meetings vs. boring monthly socials
  - vi. Internet-based vs. USPS
  - vii. Simple Rules (TSR - Trust, 100% Support & Respect) vs. RRO (Robert’s Rules of Order) legalism

**4. Ben Franklin Society Principles**

- a. Non-Profit, Non-Political, Non-Religious
- b. Umbrella Organization – Collection of Independent Projects on topics that Members want to do!
- c. Individual and Collaborative Research Projects on Matters of Future Value to FC
- d. Membership requires Active Participation in a Project
- e. Active projects must make Visual Presentation at Quarterly Society Meetings
- f. Commitment to Student Mentoring
- g. Leverage all Project Deliverables – Help Drive Sales Tax Revenue \$
- h. Internet technology-driven – communication/collaboration
- i. TSR (The Sunday Rules)
- j. Can Do, Fun, Healthy, Rewarding

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*What can you do that is worthwhile?*

**5. What Are Society Research Proposals & Projects**

- a. Not theoretical/academic; rather, practical/results-oriented
- b. Produce Deliverables of “Future Value to the County” – report, map, asset
- c. Economic / Tourism / Quality-of-Life potential
- d. Less than 1 calendar year in duration
- e. 3/4 Society Membership Vote to accept a Proposal as a Society Project
- f. Basis for Society Membership – participation in a Project
- g. Mentor FC High School Students – two-way benefit - satisfy Senior Project Requirement while transferring internet skills to many of us
- h. Visual Presentation at Quarterly Society Meetings
- i. Review website List of Candidate Proposal Ideas

**6. Panel Presentations - clarify the notion of a Research Proposal/Project**

- a. Each Panel Member will suggest candidate Project Proposal Ideas
  - i. Tom Magnuson, Trading Path Association
  - ii. Scott Hammerbacher – FC Interim planning Director
  - iii. Eddie Ingram – FC School System Curriculum Director
- b. All Project Proposal Ideas will be recorded and reviewed at the October 2008 Meeting
- c. Project Proposals become Research Projects by Society Membership Vote – November 2008 Meeting
- d. Audience Interaction

**7. Audience Research Proposal Ideas – TELL US YOUR IDEAS**

- a. Encourage audience to Propose Research Topics
- b. Record All Proposal Ideas. Review at next (OCT) Meeting

**8. *We have answered the questions***

- a. *Why you should VOLUNTEER?*
- b. *Why you should join the BFS?*
- c. *What you can do that is worthwhile? Individual or Collaborative Research Projects*

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**9. Society Membership Benefits (3C's)**

**Communication/Collaboration/Coordination**

- a. Society Website ([www.BenFranklinSocietyNC.org](http://www.BenFranklinSocietyNC.org))
- b. Individual Email Accounts with forwarding e.g.  
bob.radcliffe@BenFranklinSocietyNC.org
- c. Each Research Project has its own sub-Domain (Website)  
e.g. 2008-02-Project.BenFranklinSocietyNC.org
- d. Society LISTSERV & CHAT services for Online Collaboration
- e. Quarterly Meeting Structure – Peer Pressure at its BEST – Presentations
- f. Coordination with both ongoing Society and County Projects
- g. Ongoing Publicity and Q4 Recognition
- h. Supportive Fundraising as needed

**10. Next Steps**

- a. Review Membership and Project Proposal Forms
- b. Solicit Feedback & Suggestions
- c. Set 2nd October Meeting: date/day, time, location – HANDOUT  
TENTATIVE AGENDA – Bring a Guest!
- d. Take home Membership, Project Proposal & Agenda HANDOUTS –  
Protocols & Proposals - bring to October Meeting
- e. Check [www.BenFranklinSocietyNC.org](http://www.BenFranklinSocietyNC.org) and The Franklin Times for info
- f. Questions? – take a Business Card – contact me!

**11. Closing Remarks**

- a. Acknowledge Richie Duncan EDC - Meeting Room
- b. Thank Panel Members – Applause
- c. Thank Audience – Volunteers
- d. Collect Sign-in, Membership Forms and Research Project Proposals