

REGULAR MEETING  
TOWN OF WAYNESVILLE  
HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION  
JUNE 6, 2001  
WEDNESDAY - 2:00 P.M.  
TOWN HALL

The Waynesville Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) held a regular meeting on Wednesday, June 6, 2001. Members present were Bob Breese, Alexander Lesueur, Ruth Chacto, Bette Sprecher, Ron Fleenor and Helen Malina. Others present were Assistant Planner Andrew Powell and Town Clerk Phyllis McClure. Chairman Helen Malina called the meeting to order at 2:10 p.m.

Approval of Minutes of April 4 and May 3, 2001

It was the consensus of the Commission that the minutes of the April 4 and May 3, 2001 meetings be approved as presented.

Request for Local Landmark Designation by Harry & Sandra Dennard - 185 Pigeon Street - Rotha House

Harry & Sandra Dennard have requested that their house located at 185 Pigeon Street be designated as a local landmark property. The property contains a 2,684 sq. ft. two story wood and brick house built in 1903 by Captain Alden Howell, a prominent local developer and banker who served on "Stonewall" Jackson's staff during the Civil War. Harry and Georgia Rotha were the first occupants in 1904 and the house was in the Rotha family home for over 50 years.

Ron Fleenor said the house originally had tin shingles which were later removed and replaced with asphalt shingles. Alex Lesueur said he once lived two doors from this house and during that time two of the former owners, the Smiths and the McGinnis, did a lot of work, including restoring the floors and enlarging the patio. Bob Breese said the Rotha family was good friends with his family and he has visited the house many times. Bette Sprecher said she also could remember visiting the house as a child.

Bob Breese moved, seconded by Bette Sprecher, that the nomination to designate the "Rotha House" as a local landmark be submitted to the State Division of Archives for further study. The motion carried unanimously.

Discussion Regarding Masonic Lodge Building - 37 Church Street

Andrew Powell said the Masonic Lodge Building is on the National Register and the current owner, John Mercer, has submitted a request to the State Division of Archives requesting that it also be placed on the local register. Mr. Mercer is considering some renovations to the building, which include the installation of a handicapped ramp at the front of the building, a requirement if he converts the third story of the building into a restaurant.

Helen Malina said that a temporary and removable handicapped ramp could be built which would not deface the building.

Bette Sprecher moved, seconded by Ruth Chacto, to recommend to Mr. Mercer that modifications to the Masonic Lodge building located at 37 Church Street be delayed until the request for designation of a local landmark comes before the Commission and he has fully researched the possibility of installing a temporary, removable handicapped accessible ramp, or otherwise jeopardize the building's designation on the National Register and Local Landmark Listing. The motion carried unanimously.

#### Consideration of Local Landmark Designation - Waynesville Drive-In

Andrew Powell asked the Commission for their opinion on a local landmark designation for the Waynesville Drive-In. The Waynesville Drive-In is one of two drive-ins remaining in operation in the State of North Carolina. It was the consensus of the Board that the owners of the Waynesville Drive-In be contacted to consider this possibility. Andrew will get the names of the owners and Helen Malina and Bette Sprecher will contact the owners.

#### Restoration of Historic Rock Wall at the Waynesville Post Office - Haywood Street/Academy Street

At the time Bette Sprecher contacted the Waynesville Postmaster, he indicated that they did not have the money to restore the historic rock wall on Haywood and Academy Streets. Since that time, Ms. Sprecher has spoken with Jerry Parks who is willing to supervise the work on this wall free of charge. It may be possible to use college students or Helen Malina said that the adult probation office may have a crew available for this work. Andrew Powell will contact the Postmaster at the Waynesville Post Office to inform him that the Town will arrange for labor and a supervisor for this work.

Andrew Powell reported that a decision has not been made regarding the restoration of the historic rock wall at Greenhill Cemetery.

#### Civil War Memorial/Sulphur Springs Park

Andrew Powell said that Ron Muse contacted him regarding the Civil War Memorial located on private property near the Sulphur Springs Park and asked that the Town consider moving it to a location on Town property where it would be more accessible to people than it is on private property. The Commission said that there have been attempts in the past to move the Memorial but those attempts have failed.

Andrew Powell asked the Commission how they felt about efforts to restore the Sulphur Springs Park. He added that John Swift informed him that there have been efforts in the past but they have failed. This was mainly due to objections from the private property owners located nearby. The Commission felt that this was a worthwhile effort. Helen Malina said it may be possible to use youth groups for this project.

#### Historic Preservation Week

Bette Sprecher said that Sandra Owen was truly an asset and she thoroughly enjoyed working with her in coordinating the contests for Historic Preservation Week. Bette expressed appreciation to Town Staff for their help. Thank you letters were mailed to the judges, schools, and for the refreshments which were provided. It was the consensus of the Commission that the schools be notified next year in January or February for students to work on their contest entries before they get busy with testing, etc., and that the judging and ceremony be held during Historic Preservation Week in May. Ms. Sprecher suggested that all members of the Historic Preservation Commission be involved next year.

#### 25<sup>th</sup> Regiment, North Carolina Troops Re-enactment

Bette Sprecher said on Saturday, June 9, beginning at 10 am, the N.C. Re-enactors will present a free all day event at the Shelton House, 49 Shelton Street, Waynesville. There will be a drill demonstration with musket firing and skirmish, field music demonstration, fashion show and will end with a Confederate Memorial Service at Greenhill Cemetery.

#### Adjournment

With no further business, it was the consensus of the Commission to adjourn the meeting at 3:07 p.m.

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Helen Malina  
Chairman

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Phyllis R. McClure  
Town Clerk