

REGULAR MEETING
TOWN OF WAYNESVILLE
HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION
JULY 3, 2002
WEDNESDAY - 2:00 P.M.
TOWN HALL

The Waynesville Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) held a regular meeting on Wednesday, July 3, 2002. Members present were Ron Fleenor, Warren Gresham, Helen Malina, Georgia Forney, Bette Sprecher and Bob Breese. Others present were Planner Andrew Powell and Town Clerk Phyllis McClure. Chairman Helen Malina called the meeting to order at 2:12 p.m.

Approval of Minutes of June 5, 2002

Bette Sprecher moved, seconded by Ron Fleenor, to approve the minutes of the June 5, 2002 meeting as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

Public Hearing - for Local Landmark Designation - Strickland - 129 Woolsey Heights (Thomasene Woolsey Howell House)

At the meeting of April 3, 2002, the HPC recommended that the application for local landmark designation be sent to the NC Division of Archives and History for their review and recommendation. The response from the State has been received stating that "the information in the report provides adequate information for the Town Board of Aldermen to deem that the Thomasene Woolsey Howell House has the requisite special significance and integrity for landmark designation. We think that the house is most worthy of the recognition and protection local designation provides."

Chairman Helen Malina opened the public hearing.

Bob Breese said he has spent many nights at this house with his three cousins and Uncle Alden Howell. This house was one of the most beautiful homes in Waynesville. It was built by a cotton broker, Mr. Woolsey, a multi-millionaire who owned a bank. Ms. Woolsey's maiden name was Ricket and she was from New York City. This was one of three houses built on a hill above downtown Waynesville known as "Woolsey Heights". Mr. Breese said if there ever was a home in Waynesville that should be on the national register this is it. For many years it was the social center of the Town. The house deteriorated badly because no one lived in it for several years. It was used as a Halloween house for several years. Mr. Breese said the Stricklands are doing a good job in restoring the house.

Chairman Helen Malina closed the public hearing.

Andrew Powell said although the letter from the State notes that "if the Town Board of Aldermen wishes to extend the Commission's design review authority to significant features of the interior of

the house, the owner must give written consent and the designation ordinance must specify the features and describe the nature of the Commission's design review authority over them." Andrew Powell said the Stricklands do not have plans at this time to designate the interior of the home.

Bob Breese moved, seconded by Bette Sprecher, to recommend to the Board of Aldermen that the Thomasene Woolsey Howell House located at 129 Woolsey Heights be granted a Local Historic Landmark Designation. The motion carried unanimously.

Amendment to Bylaws Regarding Term Limitations

Since Chairman Helen Malina was absent at the last meeting a discussion was held regarding the amendment to the HPC Bylaws limiting the terms for Chairman and Vice-Chairman to two (2) consecutive years. Chairman Malina said although she has served eight (8) years as Chairman she would like to continue to serve this year and she would take a break next year. Ron Fleenor felt that since the election was voted on in April it should stand until next year.

Amendment to Standards Regarding Windows

Ron Fleenor said that Jack Wadham recently asked him about replacing the windows on his building in Frog Level. Mr. Fleenor said John Horton helped Jim Pierce replace the windows on their warehouse on Commerce Street which was recently granted a local landmark designation. The HPC discussed the advantages of aluminum or vinyl clad windows on the outside and wooden on the inside. The windows give the appearance of wood on the outside, maintaining the character of the building. They reduce maintenance and are more efficient.

Ron Fleenor moved, seconded by Bob Breese, to amend the standards for windows to allow an exception: that the window exterior can be constructed of aluminum or vinyl. The motion carried unanimously.

Adjournment

With no further business, Ron Fleenor moved, seconded by Bette Sprecher, to adjourn the meeting at 2:33 p.m. The motion carried unanimously.

Phyllis R. McClure
Town Clerk

Helen Malina
Chairman