

REGULAR MEETING
TOWN OF WAYNESVILLE
HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION
MAY 7, 2008
WEDNESDAY - 2:00 P.M.
TOWN HALL

The Historic Preservation Commission held a regular meeting on Wednesday, May 7, 2008. Members present were Shawn Leatherwood, Herbert Nelson, David Felmet, Bette Sprecher, Bob Kearney, Nikki Owens and Peter Sterling. Malinda Messer was unable to attend due to illness. Sandra Owen was unable to attend; she was out of Town to attend a school function for her son. Also present were Planning Director Paul Benson and Town Clerk Phyllis McClure. Chairman Bette Sprecher called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m.

Approval of Minutes of April 2, 2008

David Felmet moved, seconded by Shawn Leatherwood, to approve the minutes of the April 2, 2008 meeting as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

Annual Elections

Herbert Nelson moved, seconded by Shawn Leatherwood, to nominate Bette Sprecher as Chairman and David Felmet as Vice Chairman. Both agreed to serve in these capacities. The motion carried unanimously.

Discussion of Historic Landmarks Tour Booklet Status

Bob Kearney said most of the photographs for the brochure have been given to The Mountaineer for publication. He still needs a new photograph of Panacea and would like to get a nice color photo of the historic Haywood County Courthouse. Advertisers are being solicited for the brochure and those advertisers will be given a certain number of brochures for distribution. Several businesses were suggested as possible advertisers, including businesses in Frog Level, the Bed and Breakfast Association and historic companies on Main Street. Bob asked that members call him with their ideas. The original plan was to have a 32 page booklet and this brochure will be at least that large and possibly larger. Bob said by the end of May the booklet should be in pretty good shape with a print date being the first or second week in June. Copies will be given to HPC Members for distribution.

There was discussion about the progress on the historic Courthouse, especially since the contractor for this project has been terminated. Bette Sprecher said Tax Collector David Francis told her it would be at least February - April of 2009 before the renovations are finished. The Courthouse lawn may not be suitable for the watermelon cutting planned by the HPC for the July 4 festivities and may need to be moved to another location.

Williamson House - Walnut Street

Bob Kearney said in discussions with Bette Sprecher, David Felmet and other members of the Haywood County Historical Society on Monday, May 5 it was felt that the letter to the Williamson family regarding their house on Walnut Street should be printed on their letterhead.

There was discussion regarding other historic properties in Waynesville that may be in danger and the importance of determining the owners of the properties and informing them of the benefits of listing their properties as historic landmarks.

Historic Property Inventory Maps

Paul Benson said he did a query of all properties that are fifty years old or older and found that this would include a large number of properties. One suggestion was that HPC members drive by properties and list those that appear to be in danger. He said there is a list of more than 300 properties that are already identified as having historic merit. By the next meeting Paul can have maps divided into sections for assignment to the HPC members. Bette Sprecher said she would like to include historic silos and rock houses in the future. Nikki Owens said information is available that could be sent out to people with historic rock walls regarding the maintenance of those rock walls. She added that copies of the document would need to be purchased for distribution.

Honeycutt Building Landmark Designation Ordinance Revisions

Paul Benson distributed a draft ordinance with a suggested name change for Ordinance No. 9-00 regarding the Landmark Designation of the "Grady Honeycutt Building". It was suggested that the ordinance be amended to change the historic name in the ordinance to the "Messer-Carswell Building" in order to more accurately reflect the historic name of the property.

Bob Kearney moved, seconded by Shawn Leatherwood, to recommend to the Board of Aldermen that Ordinance No. 9-00 be amended as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

Report on Hendersonville Training Session

Several HPC Members attended a training session in Hendersonville. Herb Nelson felt that the session was somewhat redundant. David Felmet said the information was similar to the information received in a training session in Black Mountain. Those attending also had difficulty hearing what was being presented and could not see the speaker very well. Bette Sprecher said new members would benefit from this information, but it was felt that new information should be available for other members.

Letters to Property Owners in the "Spread Out" Area

There was discussion regarding letters to property owners in the area known as "Spread Out" which includes Maple Street, Cherry Street, Hazel Street, Beech Street, Walnut Street, etc. Sandra Owen and Nikki Owens said they asked about sending letters to the property owners in this area and it was felt that property owners should be invited to attend an informational workshop about how

improvements can be made to historic properties that will maintain the historic significance of the properties and the benefits of listing historic property. Paul Benson said the properties in this area are identified in the 1996 Inventory list, which would make it easier to notify the owners. It has been suggested that this district be placed on the study list. Mr. Benson said he could apply for a grant to have this area added on the study list for the National Register. Paul will draft and have this information available at the next meeting.

Adjournment

With no further business, Herbert Nelson moved, seconded by David Felmet to adjourn the meeting at 2:50 p.m. The motion carried unanimously.

Phyllis R. McClure
Town Clerk

Bette H. Sprecher
Chairman