

REGULAR MEETING
HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION
TOWN OF WAYNESVILLE
MAY 6, 2009
WEDNESDAY - 2:00 P.M.
TOWN HALL

The Historic Preservation Commission held a regular meeting on Wednesday, May 6, 2009. Members present were Tom Shaw, Herbert Nelson, David Felmet, Bette Sprecher, Nikki Owens, Shawn Leatherwood, Sandra Owen and Peter Sterling. Also present were Planning Director Paul Benson and Town Clerk Phyllis McClure. Absent was Bob Kearney. Chairman Bette Sprecher called the meeting to order at 2:01 p.m.

Approval of Minutes of April 1, 2009

David Felmet moved, seconded by Tom Shaw, to approve the minutes of the April 1, 2009 meeting as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

Followup of April 16 Workshop

Chairman Bette Sprecher said she was thrilled that approximately seventy people attended the workshop on April 16 and expressed the importance of translating this success to the news media in a press release. With so many people attending, the Commission felt somewhat overwhelmed and discussed how future workshops could be improved. Some suggestions were as follows:

Send personal invitations to the Mayor and Board of Aldermen.

Designate one individual to be in charge of the meeting and introduce each speaker.

Include contact information for each Historic Commission Member to make it easier for people to contact them if they are interested in historic designation.

Limit the time for each speaker.

Limit the time for the slide show presentation.

Hold yearly workshops.

Distribute handouts that describe the historic designation process.

Tom Shaw said he could put a presentation together. Nikki Owens expressed appreciation for the presentation made at the workshop by Mr. Frampton on Prospect Hill. Herbert Nelson suggested that a presentation be made to the residents on Love Lane. Shawn Leatherwood suggested talking to individuals from the Love Lane area and encouraging them to seek local designation. David Felmet asked the Commission to consider inviting the residents to attend the June HPC meeting. Bette Sprecher and Herbert Nelson suggested calling some of the Love Lane residents to see if an informal meeting can be set up, possibly at one of their homes.

Bill King, a resident at Lake Junaluska, attended the workshop. He said as a participant at the workshop he agrees with the Commission members. People are looking for simple and practical step by step information regarding the historic designation process.

John Keith, owner of Twigs and Leaves on Main Street attended the meeting and expressed interest

in the historic designation process. Mr. Keith said the Twigs and Leaves building on Main Street has the oldest date of any structure on the Downtown Waynesville Association inventory, serving as a hardware store in 1952 and later as the location for Caldwell Plumbing. Peter Sterling said he helped conduct research on this property with David Erickson several years ago.

Paul Benson suggested that a letter be mailed to property owners on the landmark list. Bette Sprecher and Sandra Owen suggested that letters be sent to the people that attended the workshop. Peter Sterling asked that historic designation process information be included with the letter. Sandra Owen suggested that the article written by Peter Sterling A Preservation Sensitive Community be included. Paul Benson said he spoke to approximately six people interested in historic designation and suggested that they write down what they know about their building and attend the next HPC meeting. A list of what is required can be given to those interested. Paul Benson said one of the first questions asked by individuals interested in historic preservation designation is what type of tax savings is available. Paul Benson will draft a letter for Bette Sprecher to review.

Annual Elections

The annual elections will be held at the June meeting.

Funding Received for National Register Nomination of Spread Out Area

Paul Benson said Waynesville received the funding for the Spread Out area National Register Nomination. Paul has been writing and submitting this grant application for consideration for three years and this is the first year the grant has been approved for Waynesville. Tom Shaw said the property owners in this area should be encouraged and motivated. If the area receives local district designation they would not get the landmark tax credit. Shawn Leatherwood said it should be determined whether any of the homes would qualify as local landmarks. Paul Benson said the next step is to hire a consultant to help identify those that may be eligible. He added that Clay Griffin, a consultant in Asheville, is familiar with this area and can help with this.

Communication Strategy - Civic Organizations

The Commission felt that one way to distribute information regarding historic designation would be to present the information to civic organizations. It was suggested that this be discussed with Bob Kearney to see if he could make presentations to the various civic organizations.

Adjournment

Bette Sprecher thanked Bill King and John Keith for their attendance at the meeting.

Herbert Nelson moved, seconded by David Felmet to adjourn the meeting at 2:53 p.m. The motion carried unanimously.

Phyllis R. McClure
Town Clerk

Bette H. Sprecher
Chairman