

REGULAR MEETING  
TOWN OF WAYNESVILLE  
HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION  
FEBRUARY 7, 2001  
WEDNESDAY - 2:00 P.M.  
TOWN HALL

The Waynesville Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) held a regular meeting on Wednesday, February 7, 2001. Members present were Bob Breese, Alexander Lesueur, Sandra Owen, Ruth Chacto, Bette Sprecher and Helen Malina. Others present were Planning and Zoning Manager John Swift, Planner Andrew Powell and Town Clerk Phyllis McClure. Chairman Helen Malina called the meeting to order at 2:09 p.m.

Approval of Minutes of November 15, 2000

Bob Breese moved, seconded by Bette Sprecher, to approve the minutes of the November 15, 2000 meeting as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

Historic Preservation Commission Brochure

Andrew Powell presented copies of the recently printed Historic Preservation Commission brochure. Sandra Owen said the photographs were beautiful and the fonts which were used looked very good. Helen Malina commended everyone who helped bring the brochure to "fruition". Each member received several copies and were asked to distribute them to any organization or committee they are affiliated with. Ron Fleenor has taken copies to the Haywood County Chamber of Commerce. The Committee felt that the brochure will increase the public's interest in historic preservation and provide information on the process. One suggestion for the next printing is to eliminate the Mr./Mrs./Ms.

before each name since the committee members felt that the title was not necessary.

Historic Preservation Week Committee

Bette Sprecher and Sandra Owen were appointed to serve on a committee to promote Historic Preservation Week. Ruth Chacto was appointed as an alternate member. Historic Preservation Week is May 13 through May 19, 2001.

Training/Conferences for Historic Preservation Commission Members

Helen Malina will prepare a budget request for John Swift before March 7 requesting funds for training and conferences for the Commission Members. Dates for this year's training events were unavailable but will be forwarded to the Commission Members as they are received.

## Waynesville Historical Society Meeting

Bette Sprecher, President of the Waynesville Historical Society, invited the Historic Preservation Commission Members to a special meeting and dinner to be held at the Methodist Church on Friday, March 30, 2001. A program on the History of Schools will be presented. Ms. Sprecher said that all meetings of the Waynesville Historical Society are open to the public and yearly membership fees are \$15 for anyone interested in joining. Their regular meetings are held every other month on Thursday nights at Town Hall at 7:00 p.m..

## Discussion of Lighting Ordinance

John Swift reported that a considerable amount of time has been spent on the Internet searching for model lighting ordinances. Neon and lighting all fit together and it is felt that it would be discriminating to eliminate neon lighting only. Some ordinances are based on lumens. On Tuesday, February 13, 2001, the Board of Aldermen will consider the placement of a moratorium to allow time for this issue to be studied before taking any action. The Planning Board, Community Appearance Commission and Historic Preservation Commission have all discussed neon lighting and signage and asked Town Staff to draft an ordinance which prohibits neon lighting and signage in commercial, manufacturing and industrial zoning districts. Town Staff has recommended a lighting ordinance which also addresses other lighting sources.

It was the consensus of the HPC that they reaffirm their position taken at their October 2000 meeting as follows: It was the feeling of the HPC that neon signs are not appropriate on buildings in Waynesville. It was a consensus of the HPC Members that neon signs not be allowed in Waynesville unless there was some control.

Helen Malina said this issue began when the Polo Restaurant which was located at the Way Inn on South Main Street placed a neon sign at their entrance. Since the Way Inn is listed on the local historic landmark designation, it was felt that the neon sign was inappropriate. More recently Bogarts Restaurant totally outlined their building with neon. Sandra Owen said that the Historic Preservation Commission has an interest in historic properties and their preservation. Helen Malina added that several areas in Waynesville have a chance of being considered for designation as historic districts such as the Walnut Street, Boundary Street and Depot Street. Mr. Swift said that if only certain districts are considered overlay districts are created. If the Commission wishes to do this, he could draw an overlay district to show how it would look. Mr. Swift added that a process must be followed when overlay districts are created; property owners must be notified and public hearings must be held.

It was the consensus of the Board that lighting should be controlled through an ordinance and a moratorium should be considered to allow time to develop this ordinance. If the lighting cannot be controlled by an ordinance, a minimum of an overlay district should be considered.

## Old Business

### Frog Level Area

John Swift said he met with Carol James about three weeks ago. Ms. James is one of the property owners in Frog Level and the Chairman of the newly formed Frog Level Committee. On Thursday, February 22, a workshop will be held from 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. with the Army Corps of Engineers from Wilmington, NC. This workshop will have information about low cost/no cost methods of flood proofing and funds which may be available to help property owners in the Frog Level Area make improvements to their properties. Money may also be available for rebuilding the depot.

### Post Office Building

Bette Sprecher said that the rock wall at the Waynesville Post Office is beginning to deteriorate on both the Academy Street and Haywood Street sections. John Swift suggested that someone speak with the Local Postmaster and the Regional Postmaster. Ms. Sprecher will speak to Waynesville Postmaster Tommy Jones.

### Land Use Planning Public Educational Forum

Helen Malina reminded the Commission that two public educational forums on land use planning will be held on Thursday, February 15, 2001 at 2:00 - 4:00 p.m. and 7:00 - 9:00 p.m. at the High Tech Center.

### Adjournment

With no further business, Bette Sprecher moved, seconded by Bob Breese, to adjourn the meeting at 3:17 p.m. The motion carried unanimously.

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Helen Malina  
Chairman

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Phyllis R. McClure  
Town Clerk