

REGULAR MEETING
TOWN OF WAYNESVILLE
HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION
AUGUST 1, 2001
WEDNESDAY - 2:00 P.M.
TOWN HALL

The Waynesville Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) held a regular meeting on Wednesday, August 1, 2001. Members present were Sandra Owen, Ruth Chacto, Bette Sprecher, Ron Fleenor, Bob Breese and Alexander Lesueur. Others present were Planner Andrew Powell and Town Clerk Phyllis McClure. Acting Chairman Ron Fleenor called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m.

Approval of Minutes of June 6, 2001

Bette Sprecher moved, seconded by Bob Breese to approve the minutes of the June 6, 2001 meeting as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

Public Hearing - Request for Local Landmark Designation by Harry and Sandra Dennard - 185 Pigeon Street - Rotha House

At the meeting of June 6, 2001 a motion was made and unanimously passed that the nomination of the "Rotha House" as a local historic landmark be submitted to the Sate Division of Archives for further study. The public hearing was scheduled for today.

Mr. Harry Dennard attended the meeting to present the request. Mr. Dennard said the house was built in 1903 by Alden Howell. Mr. Dennard and his wife Sandra purchased the house in October 2000. A lot of the home's history was contributed by Charlene Rotha, one of the daughters who grew up in the house.

The State Division of Archives submitted a letter regarding this request and recommended the following suggestions for strengthening the report and clarifying the information:

- 1) The report describes the Mr. and Mrs. Rotha as the first occupants of the house, but does not indicate if they purchased the property from Capt. Howell, the builder. Additional information and clarification regarding the construction of the house would be helpful.
- 2) The architectural description of the property should elaborate on significant features of the building such as doors, windows, and construction materials. For purposes of the landmark designation, the physical elements of the building integral to its significance should be described.
- 3) The report should briefly discuss the significance of the Rotha House in relation to other surviving early twentieth century Queen Anne style residences in Waynesville. How many others from the same period remain? What is the Special historical and architectural

significance of the Rotha House?

- 4) A number of editorial comments and suggestions are marked directly in the text and these should be corrected.

Mr. Dennard said that he could add this additional information to his report. A lot of homes during this time were rented. The Rothas rented this home from the time it was built from the Howells until one of the daughters, Virginia Rotha Barrett, bought the house from Alden Howell in 1944.

Bette Sprecher moved, seconded by Bob Breese, to continue the public hearing until the September 5 meeting, in order to give Mr. Dennard an opportunity to respond to the recommendations from the State Division of Archives. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Dennard invited the Historic Preservation Commission members to come by and take a look at the house. The Commission thanked Mr. Dennard for what he is doing in seeking this designation. Mr. Fleenor informed Mr. Dennard that he could add restrictions to his deed to protect the house if it receives the historic local landmark designation.

Historic Rehabilitation Tax Credit

Andrew Powell reported that it is possible with the State's budget situation, they may eliminate the historic rehabilitation tax credit. This has not been voted on yet, but he suggested that anyone interested write their State Representatives.

Masonic Lodge Building

Andrew Powell reported that he has spoken with John Mercer regarding the Masonic Lodge building located beside Town Hall. Mr. Mercer brought a drawing in and is still working on how to install the handicapped ramp without attaching it to the front of the building.

Historic Preservation Week - Comments by Bette Sprecher

In planning for Historic Preservation Week, Bette said that she would take it upon herself to make an appointment about three weeks after school begins to find out which month would be more convenient to begin work on this project, January or February. Bette will also get a list of the lead teachers to contact.

Historic Re-enactment

Bette Sprecher said that on Saturday, June 9, the N.C. Re-enactors presented a free all day event at the Shelton House with a drill demonstration with musket firing and skirmish, field music demonstration, fashion show and Confederate Memorial Service at Greenhill Cemetery. Next year she would like to see the Historic Preservation Commission become more active in this event and would like to encourage school children to attend this educational event.

New Haywood County Justice Center

Bette Sprecher asked the Commission how they felt about the new Haywood County Justice Center. Andrew Powell added that since the Haywood County Courthouse is on the National Register it would be appropriate for the Historic Preservation Commission to be involved. There are several issues. One is the height of the new structure. Another involves the large courtroom. There is a small area behind the courtroom which they plan to convert into small offices. Two large hallways are proposed at both sides of the courtroom which would enclose the large historic windows. It was the consensus of the Commission that this courtroom was one of, if not the most important room in Haywood County.

Bette Sprecher moved, seconded by Bob Breese, to request that Andrew Powell draft a letter recommending that Haywood County keep the height of the new structure in relation with the historic courthouse and that they re-consider blocking the historic windows in the large courtroom. The motion carried unanimously.

Letter to Family of Robert Moody

One of the members of the Historic Preservation Commission, Mr. Robert Moody, recently passed away. Mr. Moody also served on Waynesville's Planning Board. It was the consensus of the Commission that a letter be sent to the family of Mr. Moody, acknowledging his contributions and interest in the Town of Waynesville and its history.

Request to Change Meeting Time for Historic Preservation Commission

Bette Sprecher suggested that the 2:00 p.m. meeting time be changed to a time during the morning. Commission Members will consider this change before the next regular meeting.

Consideration of Local Landmark Designation - Waynesville Drive-In

Andrew Powell said that he contacted the owners of the Waynesville Drive-In. He reported that they are not interested in seeking local landmark designation.

Civil War Memorial/Sulphur Springs Road

There was discussion at the last meeting regarding the possibility that the Civil War Memorial, located on private property near the Sulphur Springs Park, be moved to a location on Town property which would be easily accessible. Andrew Powell said that Ron Muse's daughter did a study on this issue and discovered that only a portion of the memorial was moved to this location. The columns were left at its original location near the creek. Bob Breese added that the United Daughters of the Confederacy would not let the memorial be moved before but it may be worth a try again in the future.

Adjournment

With no further business, Bette Sprecher moved, seconded by Bob Breese, to adjourn the meeting

at 3:15 p.m. The motion carried unanimously.

Ron Fleenor
Acting Chairman

Phyllis R. McClure
Town Clerk