

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

The Waynesville Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) held a regular meeting on Wednesday, April 3, 2002. Members present were Ron Fleenor, Warren Gresham, Helen Malina, Shawn Leatherwood, Sandra Owen, Ruth Chacto and Bette Sprecher. Others present were Planner Andrew Powell, Town Clerk Phyllis McClure and Intern Josh Ray. Chairman Helen Malina called the meeting to order at 2:10 p.m.

Approval of Minutes of February 13, 2002

Ron Fleenor moved, seconded by Bette Sprecher, to approve the minutes of the February 13, 2002 meeting as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

Public Hearing for Local Landmark Designation - 66 Commerce Street - L. Pierce Pottery

Chairman Malina opened the public hearing regarding a request by Color Collections (L. Pierce Pottery) for local landmark designation at 66 Commerce Street.

Jane Shearer presented a copy of a letter containing additional information about the building's history which was an addendum to the application to the N. C. Division of Archives and History. Ms. Shearer will also present original photograph reprints with her application when she locates the negatives.

Carol James, 313 Depot Street, spoke on behalf of the Frog Level Association and her own business at 313 Depot Street. Ms. James said she was delighted to see that the owners are requesting local landmark designation and urged the Commission to vote favorably on their request.

No one else spoke. Chairman Malina closed the public hearing.

Bette Sprecher moved, seconded by Ruth Chacto, to recommend approval of the local landmark designation for the property located at 66 Commerce Street. The motion carried unanimously.

Review of Application for Local Landmark Designation - 129 Woolsey Heights

Stephanie Strickland said the house at 129 Woolsey Heights is located in an area being considered as a historic district. An application for national historic designation has been submitted but will not be reviewed until the October meeting.

Ms. Strickland said the house has been empty for the past 40 years. Once owned by Henry Foy and Rick Lee, the house was sold to Nancy Dodd in 1980. Ms. Strickland bought the house from Ms. Dodd's estate. In 2001 she had a restorer look at the house and he is now working on restoring the

house as close to its original condition as possible. The original windows are back in the house and functional. Heat and air have been added. The house has a full basement and full attic. Old wallpaper had been placed on top of old wallpaper with some rooms having as many as six layers.

Bette Sprecher moved, seconded by Shawn Leatherwood, to send the application for local landmark designation to the NC Division of Archives and History for their review and recommendation. The motion carried unanimously.

#### Discussion Regarding The Masonic Temple

John Mercer, owner of "The Masonic Temple" building located on Church Street beside Waynesville Town Hall, said that the building is already on the National Register of Historic Places and he would like to have it recognized on the local level as well. Mr. Mercer said he has been working with Clark and Leatherwood regarding handicapped access through the side of the building rather than a ramp on the front. Helen Malina said the Commission appreciates when people think of preservation and wished Mr. Mercer luck with all designations for the Masonic Temple building.

It was the consensus of the Commission to submit the application to the State for local landmark designation since the building is already on the National Register.

#### Ron Fleenor - Discussion Regarding Frog Level Area

Ron Fleenor said he was running into several problems with the Frog Level area.

- 1) A couple of weeks ago the Town Staff notified the property owners about a meeting regarding a new traffic light on Depot Street. The plan also included removal of trees, parking spaces, etc. Since the Frog Level area is on the National Register list for historic places, the property owners did not want to lose any parking spaces or trees. There was also a problem with having the right-hand turn lane and the fact that the light will stay green on Depot Street until Commerce Street vehicles trip the light. Mr. Fleenor felt that this would create speeding problems on Depot Street.

Helen Malina said she has received telephone calls about this. Mr. Fleenor said according to the Town, the Department of Transportation is not involved in the decision to replace the traffic light. Mr. Fleenor said the purpose of the new light is to move the traffic faster through the Frog Level area which would not be good if this area is designated as a historic district. He added that the Frog Level area is in the new Central Business District according to the Town's Planning Study.

- 2) The second item of concern is the jake brake situation. Mr. Fleenor said that jake brakes were designed to save brakes on large trucks when they are traveling more than 35 miles per hour. He added that the situation was so bad it has broken windows in this area when trucks apply their jake brake while traveling down Depot Street where the speed limit is 20 mph.
- 3) The third item was to request a letter of recognition or affirmation from the Historic Preservation Commission about the Frog Level area being considered as a Historic District to submit when applying for grants for the area. Mr. Fleenor will be responsible for drafting

a letter for the Commission Members to sign. He added that he is not involved with the Frog Level Commission so he could speak on their behalf. Bette Sprecher will write a letter from the Waynesville Historical Society.

Andrew Powell said after the Town held the community meeting with the Frog Level property owners, they decided to hold off any action for sixty days. Public Works Director Fred Baker has any studies which have been done on the area and should be contacted if there are any questions. Helen Malina felt that the Town may have had good intentions but may not have all the information they need. Helen Malina expressed gratitude to Ron Fleenor for being informed about this situation.

#### Request by Mr. and Mrs. Ken Hobbie Regarding Historic Barn on 276

Andrew Powell said a request was made by Mr. and Mrs. Ken Hobbie for the opinions of the Historic Preservation Commission regarding the historic barn located on the property they recently purchased (formerly Haynes Apple Orchard and Mobile Home Park) on Russ Avenue (US 276). The barn was originally five stories, but changes were made in the early 1980's and is now only three stories.

#### Election of Officers

Bette Sprecher moved, seconded by Ruth Chacto, to re-elect Helen Malina as Chairman and Ron Fleenor as Vice-Chairman. Both accepted to serve in these positions if the Ordinance establishing the Historic Preservation Commission allowed them to serve again. The motion carried unanimously.

#### Discussion Regarding Historic Preservation Week - May 12-19, 2002

There was some discussion regarding possible judges for the poster contest. Some suggestions were Raymond Altman (works with Helen Malina) 349-9981 Home and 586-6367 Work, Joe Bassett 586-6367, Teresa Pennington and Ray Menzey (Arts Teacher in Jackson County).

Sandra Owen will contact The Enterprise Mountaineer regarding publicity and Helen Malina will take responsibility for picking up contest entries.

There was a question regarding whether there was any money in the Town's budget for the Historic Preservation Commission.

#### Adjournment

Warren Gresham moved, seconded by Ron Fleenor, to adjourn the meeting at 3:19 p.m. The motion carried unanimously.

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Helen Malina  
Chairman

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Phyllis R. McClure  
Town Clerk