

REGULAR MEETING
TOWN OF WAYNESVILLE
HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION
JANUARY 8, 2003
WEDNESDAY - 2:00 P.M.
TOWN HALL

The Waynesville Historic Preservation Commission held a regular meeting on Wednesday, January 8, 2003 at 2:00 p.m. Members present were Ron Fleenor, Warren Gresham, Georgia Forney, Sandra Owen, Bette Sprecher, Bob Breese and Helen Malina. Others present were Planner Andrew Powell and Town Clerk Phyllis McClure. Acting Chairman Ron Fleenor called the meeting to order at 2:08 p.m.

Approval of Minutes of November 12, 2002

Bob Breese moved, seconded by Georgia Forney, to approve the minutes of the November 12, 2002 meeting as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

Public Hearing for Local Historic Landmark Designation - 421 Grimball Drive - The Atkins House - Roger and Judith Winge

Acting Chairman Fleenor opened the public hearing. The following persons spoke:

Roger Winge, 421 Grimball Drive, Waynesville, said this house has significant historical importance. The Atkins House was designed by Asheville Architect Charles Parker, designer of Asheville's Grove Arcade. The house was completed in 1929. He presented a newspaper article regarding the Grove Arcade. This house is one of the few houses in Waynesville designed by an architect. It was built by a prominent resident, Hilliard Atkins, who was involved in the growth of the town and served as Waynesville's Mayor in the early 1900's. Mr. Atkins also served as President of the Citizens Bank Company and Rotary Club. Mr. Winge provided the Commission with a copy of Hilliard Atkins' obituary as well as that of his wife, Nora Swift Atkins. (Note: Helen Malina joined the meeting at this time)

Mr. Winge said this house is the only one of its type in Waynesville. The original green tile roof was removed by a former owner in the 1980's and replaced with asphalt shingles because when the snow melted from the roof it would re-freeze and pop the tiles up. The front verandah was replaced in the mid 1990's because of deterioration and breakage. The present verandah is white concrete with columns, is the same size and shape as the original and is very compatible with the style and architecture of the house and period. The house remains today, inside and outside, almost exactly as it was designed and built in the 1923.

Bette Sprecher moved, seconded by Bob Breese, to recommend that the "Atkins House" located at 421 Grimball Drive be granted local landmark designation. The motion carried unanimously.

Discussion Regarding the “Alden House” Located at 135 Pigeon Street - Susan and Robert Beasley

Susan and Robert Beasley attended the meeting to discuss changes they have made regarding the information on their house located at 135 Pigeon Street. The house was built in 1898 by Alden Howell. A carriage house on the property was built in 1850 and was converted to an apartment in the 1920's. The Waynesville hospital was located in this neighborhood.

The house has been sold many times during the past 104 years. It remained the home of Alden Howell until 1916. At that time Alden Howell signed a deed to a widow named Anna M. Beville. In 1922 the house was again sold to Noble and Mary Garrett. The house was converted into apartments sometime between 1940 and 1951. No major structural changes were made, but walls were put up dividing the upstairs and downstairs. The house remained a one family dwelling until after it was sold to Mary and Elizabeth Braren. Owners from 1951 through 1983 included the families of Pearl and S. C. Standley, Jimmie and Frances Williams and Martha June Smith (now known as Martha June Setzer).

In the years 1975 through 1983 Robert and Betty Frady owned the house. Mr. Alexander Lesueur purchased the property in 1983. The house was resold to Dr. Hormoz Saber in 1996 and kept for two years. It was then sold to John and Jane Quigley and Robert and Susan Beasley in 1998. In July 2002 the deed was signed to include only Robert and Susan Beasley.

Ms. Beasley said they have been having a problem locating pictures of the property. Bette Sprecher suggested that she contact Bruce Briggs with the Waynesville Historical Society. It was also suggested that she check with Evelyn Garrett and Alex Lesueur. Warren Gresham said the Shelton House may have some pictures.

Mr. Beasley said he has replaced most of the plumbing inside the house and put in a new electrical panel box. The porch on the left-hand side of the house has a damaged seal and some locust posts will need to be replaced. A beam in the living room is sagging and will need some repair.

No action was necessary. Andrew Powell said the Commission could vote on this at their next meeting. He would look at their additions to their application and see if he thought any revisions were needed.

Letter Regarding Request of Waynesville Historical Society for Museum Space at Historic Haywood County Courthouse

Bette Sprecher asked for support from the Historic Preservation Commission. As President of the Waynesville Historical Society (WHS) she has drafted a letter to the Haywood County Commissioners requesting that they allow some rooms to be used by the WHS for a museum in the Haywood County Courthouse.

Ron Fleenor moved, seconded by Sandra Owen, to wholeheartedly give a statement of endorsement for approval of the Haywood County Board of Commissioners that they find some space to be used as a museum for the Waynesville Historical Society in the National Register Landmark Haywood County Courthouse. The motion carried with six (6) ayes and one (1) abstention (Sprecher).

Discussion Regarding Grant Monies for Historic Rehabilitation

Sandra Owen asked if there were grant monies available for those persons who wish to rehabilitate historic structures. Andrew Powell said there is a publication available at the Haywood County Library containing a list of approximately 1,500 pages of information regarding grants available for various purposes. Helen Malina said if anyone knew of a grant she would be glad to write it since this is what she does. She pointed out that searching for available grants can be a very time consuming task. It was the consensus of the Board that this issue be pursued since restoration is expensive and more people may be in a position to rehabilitate historic structures if grant money was made available for that purpose.

Discussion Regarding Williamson House - 108 Walnut Street

Sandra Owen said she has contacted Stanley Williamson, one of the heirs to the Williamson house located at 108 Walnut Street. Sandra said this is the oldest house on this street down to Russ Avenue and its demolition could change the character of the street. Stanley told Sandra that his parents died without a will and their estate is still in probate. There is no clear title to the property on Walnut Street. Stanley Williamson is a professor of chemistry in Santa Cruz, California and does not want to see the house demolished. At this point he feels that one of his brothers, George Williamson, does not want this either. Stanley Williamson told Sandra that he understood that a letter was sent from the Town to his brother George and he would like to see a copy also. Phyllis McClure will send a copy to Stanley Williamson. Sandra will call him again in about one week.

Adjournment

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

Phyllis R. McClure
Town Clerk

Helen Malina
Chairman