

REGULAR MEETING
TOWN OF WAYNESVILLE
HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION
NOVEMBER 2, 2005
WEDNESDAY - 2:00 P.M.
TOWN HALL

The Historic Preservation Commission held its regular meeting on Wednesday, November 2, 2005. Members present were Shawn Leatherwood, John Binford, Bette Sprecher, Malinda Messer, Sandra Owen and Peter Sterling. Others present were Planning Director Paul Benson and Town Clerk Phyllis McClure. Chairman Bette Sprecher called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m.

Approval of Minutes of October 5, 2005

John Binford moved, seconded by Sandra Owen, to approve the minutes of the October 5, 2005 meeting with three corrections. The motion carried unanimously.

Draft News Release Regarding Historic Properties

Bette Sprecher asked about the draft news release regarding preserving historic properties which was discussed at last month's meeting. Paul Benson said in about thirty days there will be a formal announcement regarding an upcoming grant that can be applied for by the Town. Mr. Benson felt that this would be a good time for the press release to appear. The grant would be to apply for funds to hire a consultant to update the historic property inventory list which was done in 1996. The grant application will require a matching local fund contribution of 40% of the total project amount. An update to the existing inventory could be approximately \$5,000.

Draft Letter to Waynesville Postmaster Regarding Historic Rock Walls

Paul Benson presented a draft letter to Waynesville Postmaster Provenzano regarding the historic rock walls along their property. Sandra Owen said it was important to emphasize that these walls need to be historically repaired. It was the consensus of the Commission that the wording should be added that the rock walls should be repaired using materials and methods which would ensure the historical integrity of the rock walls. Peter Sterling suggested that in the last paragraph wording be added to say "we sincerely appreciate" and to change the order of the last sentence . . . please feel free to call . . ." so that it will be an addition to the next to last paragraph.

Bette Sprecher - Historic Plaques for Local Landmarks

Bette Sprecher said members of the Haywood County Historical Society asked about plaques for the twelve properties which have received the Local Historic Landmark Designation. Paul Benson said there should be some money in the Planning Budget for this purpose and he will look into the matter.

Williamson House - Walnut Street

There was some discussion regarding the Williamson house. David Felmet may have some information, but he was unable to attend the meeting due to illness. Although it was not known whether any work was currently being done, it was felt that the house looked much better than it did at one time. One of the brothers, George Williamson, may have moved back to the Waynesville area.

Review of Chapter 5 of Handbook for Historic Preservation Commissions in North Carolina

Mr. Benson gave an overview of Chapter 5 which deals with Inventory. It explains how to identify and evaluate historic properties and helps the commission determine which properties are most qualified. Mr. Benson said the current historic property inventory list was paid for with a planning grant. Someone such as Sybil Bowers can research and complete applications for historic areas such as "Spread Out". He distributed copies of the historic property inventory list with corrections from last meeting. Mr. Benson said this copy is a summary and a more detailed report is available in his office.

Malinda Messer said she visited the State's web site which gives information that a survey was done for Haywood County but it does not give details. Mr. Benson said at the time this was done the technology probably was not in place to include the information, and it may be too expensive and time consuming to have the information scanned into the web site.

Preface and Chapter 1 to be Reviewed at Next Meeting

At the next meeting the Commission will review the Preface and Chapter 1.

Adjournment

With no further business, Malinda Messer moved, seconded by John Binford, to adjourn the meeting at 2:42 p.m. The motion carried unanimously.

Phyllis R. McClure, Town Clerk
Bette Hannah Sprecher, Chairman