

REGULAR MEETING  
TOWN OF WAYNESVILLE  
HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION  
AUGUST 2, 2006  
WEDNESDAY - 2:00 P.M.  
TOWN HALL

The Historic Preservation Commission held its regular meeting on Wednesday, August 2, 2006. Members present were John Binford, Laura Soltis, David Felmet, Bette Sprecher, Sandra Owen, Marc Yops and Peter Sterling. Also present were Planning Director Paul Benson and Town Clerk Phyllis McClure. Absent were Malinda Messer and Shawn Leatherwood. Chairman Bette Sprecher called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m.

Approval of Minutes of June 7, 2006

Laura Soltis moved, seconded by David Felmet to approve the minutes of the June 7, 2006 meeting as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

Historic Rock Walls

Bette Sprecher asked if there was any new information regarding the historic rock walls in Waynesville. Paul Benson said tax credits may be available for the rehabilitation of the rock walls, but not grant monies. The property at the intersection of Meade Street and North Main Street is listed for sale and there is a historic rock wall on the property. Bette Sprecher felt that the owner of the property should be made aware of the significance of the rock wall.

Williamson Property - Walnut Street

David Felmet said it appears that the electricity has been disconnected from the meter and he felt that the work on the house may be at a standstill, particularly since the illness of one of the three brothers. The lawn has been mowed recently. It is hoped that the restoration of this house can be completed.

Workshop Regarding Benefits of the National Register

Bette Sprecher asked for an update on the upcoming workshop. Paul Benson said Jennifer Cathey and Mitch Wilds, representatives of the NC Department of Cultural Resources, Division of Archives and History will attend to provide information and answer questions. This workshop is scheduled at the Waynesville Branch of the Haywood County Library at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, August 10. Mr. Benson said the workshop will provide training credit for the Commission Members. Letters have been mailed to residents living in several historic districts, articles have been published in the Town's quarterly newsletter, on the Town's web site and in the local newspaper. Bette Sprecher said she planned to be there around 6:30 p.m. and asked that the other members be there as well.

### Applications to Apply for Grants for Historic Districts

Paul Benson said applications for studies of historic districts are due sometime after January 1. The Commission will need to decide which historic area they would like to see an application submitted for.

### Plaques for Historic Properties

Paul Benson said he will make sure the money was appropriated in the Town's fiscal year 2006-2007 budget and proceed with notification of the historic property owners.

### Comprehensive Inventory Update of Historic Properties

Peter Sterling asked how often a comprehensive inventory update of historic properties should be done. Paul Benson said these are normally done every ten years and the Town can apply for a survey and planning type grant to pay for this update. Mr. Benson recently spoke with a state representative about this project. The home owners in the Boundary/Hazel Street area known as "Spread Out" are interested in a study update of their area. Sandra Owen said this area should be a priority because as time passes, some of the historical significance could be lost if the area is not on the National Register.

### Building Inspectors - Historic Properties

Bette Sprecher asked if there was any new information regarding the process for building inspections of historic properties. Paul Benson said the Code is already in place which allows room for interpretation by the building inspectors. The inspectors have agreed to be more aware of the preservation of historic properties as they are conduct inspections.

### Report on Historic Rock Walls

Peter Sterling and John Binford did research on the internet regarding rock walls. One of the items they discovered was that New England has a stone wall initiative which includes the importance of stone for various structures. Peter Sterling recommended a slogan for Waynesville's rock wall preservation campaign - "Waynesville is Enjoying a New Stone Age".

John Binford moved, seconded by Laura Soltis, to adopt the slogan for rock wall preservation in Waynesville as presented by Peter Sterling. The motion carried unanimously.

John Binford presented the beginning of a portfolio which included photographs of several rock walls in the areas of Meade Street, Tate Street, Church Street, Green Hill Cemetery and South Main Street. One of the next steps is to gather historical information regarding the rock walls, such as when they were built, material used, etc. Information gathered by Peter Sterling was lost due to computer failure and will need to be put together again. The Commission discussed several other areas with rock walls, to include Waynewood Drive, Auburn Park, Waynesville Country Club and Hazelwood areas. John and Peter will continue to gather information.

Peter Sterling suggested the development of a downtown walking tour and a driving tour. Bette Sprecher volunteered to go with John and Peter because she had some historical information regarding some of Waynesville's rock walls.

Adjournment

With no further business, David Felmet moved, seconded by John Binford, to adjourn the meeting at 2:39 p.m. The motion carried unanimously.

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Phyllis R. McClure  
Town Clerk

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Bette Sprecher  
Chairman