

REGULAR MEETING
TOWN OF WAYNESVILLE
HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION
MARCH 7, 2007
WEDNESDAY - 2:00 P.M.
TOWN HALL

The Historic Preservation Commission held its regular meeting on Wednesday, March 7, 2007. Members present were Bette Sprecher, Malinda Messer, Herb Nelson, Marc Yops, David Felmet, Nikki Owen, Sandra Owen and Shawn Leatherwood. Also present were Planning Director Paul Benson and Town Clerk Phyllis McClure. Chairman Sprecher called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m. The following members were absent: Peter Sterling was out of town.

Welcome to New Members

The Historic Preservation Commission welcomed newly appointed members Nikki Owen and Herb Nelson.

Approval of Minutes of November 1, 2006

Marc Yops moved, seconded by Shawn Leatherwood, to approve the minutes of the March 7, 2007 meeting as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

Question Regarding Results of Workshop and Training

Bette Sprecher asked about workshop and training. Paul Benson said he had a few calls from people who were interested in how things worked. He referred them to the State since they handle that process. He was not aware of anything that has transferred into any certified rehabilitation projects. There could be some things in the planning process that he is not aware of.

Discussion of Rock Wall Inventory Progress

(Note: Sandra Owen joined the meeting at 2:08 p.m.)

John Binford, Peter Sterling and David Felmet served on a committee to photograph and gather information on historic rock walls. During that time John Binford became ill and passed away within a short period of time. The Commission lost a wonderful member who was willing to work for the Commission. He was in the process of collecting information regarding the Dayco Corporation. This information was submitted to the Town for historical purposes. Bette Sprecher will keep the material and put it with the historic information of the Haywood County Historical Society.

Herb Nelson volunteered to help gather information on rock walls. David Felmet said he received

a telephone call from the Boyers, current owners of the old Smathers house regarding information in their possession on the construction of their rock wall. This information included copies of checks dated 1923 for materials and labor used for the construction of the walls. These items were given to Phyllis McClure and will be copied for historical purposes. After the items are copied, David Felmet will return them to the owners. Bette will call Peter Sterling and further discussion of the rock walls may be placed on the next agenda.

Bette Sprecher said she will contact the realtor listing the home for sale on Meade Street. The Commission Members felt that it was important to notify the realtor so the future owner could be informed of the historical significance of the rock wall.

Malinda Messer will contact former member Laura Soltis to see if she was able to make contact with the Bevel family regarding the historic rock wall on Rolling Drive.

Historic Plaques

There was discussion regarding the historic plaques for local historic landmarks. Paul Benson said money is available to purchase these plaques and the Town can pay 100% of the cost. The property owner would be responsible for installation and maintenance.

Shawn Leatherwood said in the City of Charlotte all historic plaques have a bee hive symbol, making it easily recognizable from a distance. Herb Nelson said in Mobile, Alabama historic plaques contained the original owner's name and the person responsible for restoring the house. If the plaques contain both names, it would need to be larger. This could increase the price from \$152 to \$209 each. Malinda Messer said she would like to see the historic name of the house but not a hyphenated "historic name - restorer name". The plaques are required to be visible from the sidewalk. David Felmet said most of the historic homes are not located close to the sidewalk. Paul Benson said the plaque is to be in a prominent location visible to the public and he will discuss the location with the property owner. He will bring this information to the Commission for approval. Paul Benson read a draft letter to be mailed to owners of the twelve properties currently listed as local landmarks. The letter will notify property owners that the Town will purchase the plaque and that the plaque will contain the following: the size will be 10" wide x7" tall, cast bronze material, natural bronze color with brown background, border with double line, text on the first line will contain the historic name of property, second line will contain the date of construction, third line will read Town of Waynesville Historic Landmark. Bette Sprecher asked that she be called when the final copy of the letter has been prepared and she will stop by to sign. A contract can be executed with the property owner regarding the placement of the plaque.

Mr. Nelson pointed out that plaques breed more renovation and will encourage people to restore old properties. It was felt that the plaque needed to have some type of graphic symbol, be simple and with a larger type for the date. It was suggested that Chris and Lynn Sylvester be contacted to see if they might have a graphic that could be used since they have been involved in the past historic tours. Malinda Messer said it was important to recognize the person responsible for restoration. Twelve properties are currently listed on the local landmark designation. Sandra Owen said this could be a good public relations opportunity with a photograph and news article with the installation

of the first plaque. Malinda Messer said she would like to educate the public about these historic properties, by using walking tours, web site and other means such as news articles.

Brochures

Paul Benson said the old brochures contain outdated information and purchasing attractive labels to cover the old information with new information would be labor intensive and possibly cost more than designing and printing a new brochure.

Grant for Survey and Planning Grant

Paul Benson reported that the grant application for a survey and planning grant was submitted. He felt that chances of the grant being approved are better this year than last year. If the grant is not approved, it may be possible for the Town to fund the project. More information could be available before April. This will include a consultant reviewing the architectural inventory and recommend everything eligible. That way the properties have protection and could get those historic properties on the State Study List.

Bette Sprecher said she loved the Love Lane area, but was concerned with the changes in the area known as “Spread Out” and felt that this is the area of most concern. Paul Benson said this area is primarily a residential district. David Felmet asked if information might be available to determine why streets in this area are wider than other streets. Mr. Benson said the developer could have had some plans for this area. David Felmet said he grew up in this area and it was a wonderful place to ride bicycles. Sandra Owen said the area is in danger of losing its historic significance because of the changes taking place. This increases the importance of completing the study of this area.

Steps for local historic districts include:

- 1) Placing the district on a study list.
- 2) Nomination to be placed on the national register.
- 3) Local designated historic district (must be by ordinance of the Board of Aldermen).

Mr. Benson said this is something that most property owners must agree on. It would apply to the entire district, not just the homes.

Historic Walking Tour

Paul Benson distributed a map of the properties currently listed as local historic landmarks. This is something that can be included in the updated brochure. A historic walking tour may be scheduled after the plaques are installed.

Election of Officers

Commission Members were notified that the annual election of officers would be held at the meeting in April. Officers are Chairman Bette Sprecher, Vice-Chairman and Secretary Phyllis McClure.

Currently the positions of Treasurer and Historian are vacant.

Malinda Messer - Historic Truss Bridge in Bethel

Malinda Messer said she has been working with the Bethel Rural Community Organization regarding preservation of the oldest truss bridge in operation in North Carolina. The Department of Transportation has tried to find an alternate route for response time. Some people want to replace the bridge and others want to keep this bridge as a historic site. If replaced it would lose its historic designation. Comments regarding the bridge need to be submitted to the DOT as soon as possible.

History of Haywood County

Haywood County Board of Commissioners has given the Haywood County Historical Society \$40,000 toward the publication of the History of Haywood County to be published in 2008. Kathy Ross, Michael Beadle and Patrick Willis are the three writers hired for this project. Information is currently being compiled for this publication.

Training Sessions Update

Paul Benson has been talking with the planning people in Asheville and Black Mountain regarding scheduling a training session. He reported that a training session is planned for this summer at a location in Western North Carolina. He will let the Commission know when this has been scheduled. The Town of Waynesville is a certified local government for historic preservation. There are certain things required of Waynesville to include an annual training session, regular meetings and appointment of qualified people to the Commission. Most training sessions are held in the eastern part of North Carolina which makes it difficult for some people to attend.

Adjournment

With no further business, Marc Yops moved, seconded by David Felmet to adjourn the meeting at 3:12 p.m. The motion carried unanimously.

Phyllis R. McClure
Secretary

Bette Sprecher
Chairman