

REGULAR MEETING
TOWN OF WAYNESVILLE
HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION
APRIL 4, 2007
WEDNESDAY - 2:00 P.M.
TOWN HALL

The Historic Preservation Commission held its regular meeting on Wednesday, April 4, 2007. Members present were David Felmet, Marc Yops, Herbert Nelson, Jr., Bette Sprecher and Nikki Owens. Also present were Planning Director Paul Benson and Town Clerk Phyllis McClure. Chairman Sprecher called the meeting to order at 2:08 p.m. Members absent were: Shawn Leatherwood (work conflict/meeting with client), Peter Sterling (out of town), Malinda Messer and Sandra Owen (absences unknown).

Approval of Minutes of March 7, 2007

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

Election of Officers

Chairman

Herbert Nelson, Jr., moved, seconded by Marc Yops to nominate Bette Sprecher as Chairman. The motion carried unanimously.

Vice-Chairman

Herbert Nelson, Jr., moved, seconded by Nikki Owens to nominate David Felmet as Vice-Chairman. The motion carried unanimously.

Secretary

Herbert Nelson, Jr., moved, seconded by David Felmet to nominate Phyllis McClure as Secretary. The motion carried unanimously.

Plaque Applications

There are currently twelve (12) local landmark designations and one (1) pending designation. Paul Benson sent letters to each of the property owners to inform them of the historic plaques and determine if they are interested in one for their property. Mr. Benson said so far he has received five (5) favorable responses, including the Judge Frank Smathers House at 724 Smathers Street, J. B. Henry Warehouse (Panacea) at 66 Commerce Street, Charles & Annie Quinlan House (Prospect Hill) at 274 South Main Street, Atkins House at 421 Grimball Drive and the McIntosh Building at 188 N. Main Street. Mr. Benson said the Town has money available to cover 100% of the cost of the signs.

There was discussion about the location of the plaques. Commission members felt that the best location would be beside the front door, because the signs would be too small to be seen from the street. Mr. Benson said all the property owners he spoke with were willing to install the plaques wherever the Commission felt would be the best location. Bette Sprecher said if updated brochures could be published, this would help identify the historic landmarks. Each local historic landmark has a file with information that can be put into a synopsis for the brochure.

Nikki Owens moved, seconded by Marc Yops, to adopt a policy that all historic plaques will be mounted beside the front door. If the property owner would like to have the plaque mounted in another location, they could appear before the Commission with their request. The motion carried unanimously.

Mountaineer Reporter Jeff Schmercker plans to include an article in an upcoming edition of The Mountaineer with another article at a later time. Mr. Benson said the property owners he spoke to indicated that they would like for the Commission to come to their location for a photo shoot.

Historic Rock Wall Update

Bette Sprecher said she called Ms. Ruth Burgin Worsham, the owner of the historic rock wall at Meade Street. Paul Benson will write a letter to Ms. Worsham and her daughter, Jean to request that they relay information on the historic significance of this rock wall to the new owner of this property when it is sold.

John Binford and Peter Sterling began compiling information and taking photographs of the rock walls. Since that time Mr. Binford became ill and passed away. The Commission would like to wait until Peter Sterling gets back in town to start work on this project again. Herbert Nelson, Jr., volunteered to help gather information on the rock walls. David Felmet said there are some beautiful rock walls that the public needs to be aware of. Bette Sprecher said Lynn Sylvester and his partner Mr. Reece have done a wonderful job on the rock wall on Haywood Street.

There was discussion about the deteriorating historic rock wall at a rental property off South Main Street at 7 Country Club Drive. Bette Sprecher said this is the Rothermel house and Paul Benson will find the name of the current owners of this property.

Grant Update

Paul Benson said a decision should be made in March regarding the grant application that was submitted. If Waynesville doesn't get the grant he will find out if the Town can budget the money for a study during the next fiscal year in order to get "Spread Out" on the Study List. This is the first step before the area can be nominated for placement on the National Register. Mr. Benson explained that this would be the first step without negative impacts. If the area is threatened by something such as a business that wants to tear out of row of buildings for development, the property owners could make the area a local historic district. This would require agreement of all the property owners.

There was some discussion about the old mill houses in the Hazelwood area and how this area will

change with the construction of Super Wal Mart.

Brochures

There is possibility that new brochures could be published in house. Marc Yops will speak with Paul Benson. Mr. Yops said he has a good quality digital camera and could go to each location to take updated photographs of the historic properties to include in the updated brochure.

Training

Paul Benson said Mary Handberry from the State e-mailed him to determine if there was enough interest to hold a training session in Western North Carolina, possibly during July or August. Marc Yops said there is a professor at Western Carolina University that may give a presentation on Interior Design sometime during April or May. Mr. Yops will check on available dates and let Paul know. Neighboring towns such as Morganton, Hendersonville, Black Mountain and Asheville could be invited to the training sessions.

Adjournment

With no further business, David Felmet moved, seconded by Marc Yops, to adjourn the meeting at 2:54 p.m. The motion carried unanimously.

Phyllis R. McClure
Town Clerk

Bette H. Sprecher
Chairman