

REGULAR MEETING
TOWN OF WAYNESVILLE
HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION
JUNE 6, 2007
WEDNESDAY - 2:00 P.M.
TOWN HALL

The Historic Preservation Commission held its regular meeting on Wednesday, June 6, 2007. Members present were Shawn Leatherwood, Nikki Owens, Bette Sprecher, David Felmet, Herbert Nelson, Peter Sterling and Malinda Messer. Members absent were Sandra Owen (working on a project that she cannot leave) and Marc Yops (absence unknown). Also present were Planning Director Paul Benson, Town Clerk Phyllis McClure and Assistant to the Town Manager Alison Melnikova. Chairman Bette Sprecher called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m.

Approval of Minutes of April 4, 2007

David Felmet moved, seconded by Herbert Nelson, to approve the minutes of the April 4, 2007 meeting as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

Application for Certificate of Appropriateness - Dennis J. And Susan S. Eberhardt - 421 Grimboll Drive/Atkins House

Susan Eberhardt attended the meeting to request approval of a certificate of appropriateness to add a fence railing on the front porch at 421 Grimboll Drive/Atkins house. Ms. Eberhardt said a black wrought iron fence on the front porch between each stucco column is proposed. She added that the fence would be fashioned after the black wrought iron gates at the driveway entry to the property. Each stucco column is 31" from cap to the concrete slab of the porch. The wrought iron fence they intend to use is 29" tall. The fence sections would be added in the center of the 31" height span. Photographs were presented of the proposed fence railing. Ms. Eberhardt said the addition will not permanently alter any part of the historic property. In addition to the fence railing, Ms. Eberhardt said they would like to use three arched gates which would be located at the top of the porch entry stairs, the center leading to the new flower garden and at the end of the porch prior to the entry to the original side porch on the Main Street side of the property. The original porch would not be fenced in because she felt that it would detract from the circular columns there. She felt that the fencing addition would make the house prettier and look more complete.

Shawn Leatherwood said the railing addition is also a safety issue. A building inspector would require the installation of a handrail. He felt that this addition was within the realm of things that would be required and the way it is proposed is the least obtrusive way to do this. Shawn Leatherwood added that it is also in keeping with the style of the building.

David Felmet moved, seconded by Peter Sterling, to approve the certificate of appropriateness for the fence railing addition on the front porch at 421 Grimboll Drive as presented by Ms. Eberhardt.

The motion carried unanimously with six (6) ayes and one (1) abstention (Nelson).

Discussion Regarding Haywood County Bicentennial

Alison Melnikova, Assistant to the Town Manager, said the Town of Waynesville Board of Aldermen, at their meeting of May 22, 2007, recommended that Bette Sprecher, David Felmet and DWA Director Buffy Messer serve on a committee to represent Waynesville on events for Haywood County's Bicentennial. The next meeting of this committee will be held June 12, 2007 at 1:00 p.m. at the old MARC Building on Russ Avenue. Bette Sprecher and David Felmet plan to attend with Ms. Melnikova. Haywood County Commissioner Mary Ann Enloe is coordinating this celebration.

Historic Rock Walls

Bette Sprecher said she would like to see work continue on the historic rock walls. She asked Paul Benson if he would help by getting a map and dividing it into several areas to assign to the Historic Preservation Commission Members. Each member would take photographs and gather as much information about the rock walls as possible. Peter Sterling said he would also like to work on a walking tour of downtown.

Paul Benson will get a map for the next meeting. Assignments will be given at that time. Peter Sterling suggested that the commission look at their objectives. He added that we need to make people who live here and visit aware of this community.

There was also discussion about the possibility of this project being given to an intern. Peter Sterling said taking photographs would be the easy part. The difficult, time-consuming part is gathering historical information. Paul Benson said the Town does not have the money budgeted this year for an intern. This item will be placed on the next agenda.

Brochure Update

Paul Benson said updating the brochures could be done in house. A map should be included in the brochure so that local landmarks can be located easily. There was discussion that Marc Yops and Paul Benson should meet to discuss this project further. Malinda Messer said she would be willing to help with the brochure.

Becky Johnson with Smoky Mountain News suggested that the brochure be used for a walking tour. The tour could be scheduled next spring and a goal could be set to have the brochures completed by that time. Mr. Benson said there are currently twelve local landmarks, ten national registers (some are on both) and two national register districts. Mr. Benson said he could compile a map for the brochure. He also has the files containing information on each property.

Nikki Owens suggested including historic photographs and current photographs for the properties. Paul Benson said it would be difficult to locate historic photographs for some of the properties.

Peter Sterling said there are properties, rock walls, and other historic structures in need of repair.

It would be good to have information to show that these can be restored and make this a challenge for the future.

Malinda Messer suggested that a target date for completion of the brochures be set for early next Spring. Herbert Nelson suggested that the walking tour include rock walls and properties within the downtown area. Peter Sterling said an option could be given for a brief walking tour downtown as well as an extended walking tour.

No action was taken. This item will be placed on the agenda for the next meeting. Paul Benson will have a map for the commission to review and make assignments at that time.

Historic Rock Wall - 7 Country Club Drive

Bette Sprecher asked about the historic rock wall at 7 Country Club Drive. Paul Benson said he would find the name of the current owners of the property. Bette Sprecher asked if a letter could be sent from the Historic Preservation Commission regarding possible code violations. Paul Benson will speak with Code Enforcement Officer Warren Putnam regarding possible code violations on this property.

Training Opportunities

Paul Benson said a workshop has been scheduled in Black Mountain on or around the date of July 12. He will get this information to the members. He asked that anyone interested in attending let him know so he can get them registered. Sandra Owen and Paul Benson attended training last year in Salisbury.

Training is also scheduled for Friday, September 21. Mr. Benson said the Town will cover registration fees and reimburse for mileage. Town staff and two members are supposed to attend to comply with training requirements.

Grant Update

Paul Benson said the Town of Waynesville did not get funded for the grant application.

Adjournment

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

Phyllis R. McClure
Town Clerk

Bette Sprecher
Chairman