

REGULAR MEETING
TOWN OF WAYNESVILLE
HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION
AUGUST 1, 2007
WEDNESDAY - 2:00 P.M.
TOWN HALL

The Historic Preservation Commission held a special meeting on Wednesday, August 1, 2007. Members present were Peter Sterling, Nikki Owens, Bette Sprecher, David Felmet, Shawn Leatherwood and Sandra Owen. Members absent were Malinda Messer (illness), Marc Yops (medical appointment), Herbert Nelson (son was receiving an award). Also present were Planning Director Paul Benson, Assistant to the Town Manager Alison Melnikova and Town Clerk Phyllis McClure. Chairman Bette Sprecher called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Approval of Minutes of July 11, 2007

David Felmet moved, seconded by Shawn Leatherwood to approve the minutes of the July 11, 2007 meeting as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

Discussion and Review of Historic Property Walking Tour Brochure

Paul Benson and Alison Melnikova have been gathering information to include in a brochure for a walking tour of historic landmarks. The area consists of twelve (12) historic landmarks and the complete loop is approximately 2.5 miles. This tour could be divided into a north loop tour and south loop tour. A map and information on each landmark was distributed for the Commission Members to review. Shawn Leatherwood suggested that the brochure be short and precise and that a longer, more detailed version be available if requested. The Brochures would include photographs of each landmark and a map. It was suggested that a note be placed in the brochure stating that these are private properties and asking that their privacy be respected. This will be discussed further at the next meeting after members have an opportunity to review the material.

Discussion Regarding Progress on Historic Rock Wall Inventory

Bette Sprecher said The Mountaineer recently published a very good article regarding the historic rock walls. Ms. Sprecher urged the Commission Members to call Reporter Jeff Schmercker and thank him for the article. At the last meeting Paul Benson distributed maps, divided into nine sections, and those sections were assigned to each Commission Member to visit and take photographs and gather as much information as possible on historic rock walls within that area. Section 9 was assigned to Malinda Messer. Since Ms. Messer is working on the brochures she asked that someone else take this section. David Felmet and Peter Sterling have sections 7 and 8 and they agreed to work together to photograph and gather information in section 9 as well.

Peter Sterling pointed out that photographs of the rock walls would be better if taken with the

sunlight. He said the best time to take photographs would be in the later afternoon during the fall and winter months.

Nikki Owen suggested that the Commission consider conducting a workshop on how to take care of and repair these rock walls.

Peter Sterling stressed the importance of gathering the history on these walls and this addition of their history to the inventory would be interesting to read. Bette Sprecher will speak with Bruce Briggs and Henry Foy to see if they have any information on historical rock walls in Waynesville.

Black Mountain Workshop

Bette Sprecher said she attended the workshop in Black Mountain on July 12 along with Herbert Nelson, David Felmet and Paul Benson. She said approximately sixty people attended and there was a good presentation with valuable information. David Felmet said it would be good if Waynesville could host such a workshop in the future. Bette Sprecher added that she would like to see some of the western counties in North Carolina form Historic Preservation Commissions.

Bette Sprecher's Visit to Valdese, North Carolina

Bette Sprecher said she and a friend recently visited Valdese, North Carolina and urged Commission Members to visit this area if they have a chance. She said there the Town was founded in 1893 and they have a wonderful museum. It tells the story of how the Waldensians came to this area, joined with the Presbyterian Church in Valdese and that they were the last of the Mohicans.

Adjournment

With no further business, David Felmet moved, seconded by Shawn Leatherwood, to adjourn the meeting at 2:37 p.m. The motion carried unanimously.

Phyllis R. McClure
Town Clerk

Bette H. Sprecher
Chairman