

REGULAR MEETING
TOWN OF WAYNESVILLE
HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION
DECEMBER 5, 2007
WEDNESDAY - 2:00 P.M.
TOWN HALL

The Historic Preservation Commission held a regular meeting on Wednesday, December 5, 2007. Members present were David Felmet, Herbert Nelson, Nikki Owens, Sandra Owen and Bette Sprecher. Members absent were Peter Sterling (out of town), Malinda Messer (illness) and Bob Kearney (reason for absence unknown). Also present were Planning Director Paul Benson and Town Clerk Phyllis McClure. Chairman Bette Sprecher called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m.

Approval of Minutes of September 5, 2007

David Felmet moved, seconded by Herbert Nelson to approve the minutes of the September 5, 2007 meeting as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

Presentation of Historic Landmark Plaques to Property Owners

Property owners were invited to attend the meeting to receive their historic landmark plaques. Brian Pierce with Panacea Coffee House Café & Roastery located at 66 Commerce Street attended the meeting to receive their plaque. The Commission expressed appreciation for all that has been done in this historic building, adding that it is a nice addition that means a lot to the Frog Level area and to the Commission.

Discussion Regarding Prehistoric Rock Wall Photographs

Photographs are due by the first meeting in January. Paul Benson reminded the commission to bring their digital cameras and he can download the photographs. A photograph album will be created with all the rock wall photographs. Nikki Owens said some of her rock wall photographs are covered with leaves and she may need to take new photographs in the Spring. It was suggested that some of the best photographs be displayed on the Town's web site.

Historic Walking Tour Brochure

Malinda Messer was unable to attend the meeting due to illness. Ms. Messer asked Town Clerk Phyllis McClure to relay to the Commission that she would e-mail a draft to members before their January meeting. Herbert Nelson said he could drop by Town Hall to pick up his copy and could also get a copy to Bette Sprecher.

Discussion Regarding Other Historic Structures

Bette Sprecher said it has been brought to her attention that Chuck Dickson has a rock or concrete

silo and this is probably the only one in Waynesville. She asked if this structure could be included in the historic rock walls. Nikki Owen felt that this was a good idea but the commission would probably need to include other structures as well. Paul Benson said there are houses that are already in the inventory list. Herbert Nelson felt that the Commission should not get overly ambitious and should finish one project then continue to the next one. Nikki Owens said it is important to note any rock walls that could be in danger, especially those on vacant lots or any that are crumbling or damaged in any way. She added that putting out information on what you can and can't do to repair rock walls is important. As a student she put together a brochure that contained this information. She will look through her materials and since this was a student publication, this information could be distributed without any problems.

Historic Rock Wall at Waynesville Post Office

Bette Sprecher said the Waynesville Post Office has a new superintendent. Paul Benson said he sent a letter to the former superintendent regarding the historic rock walls but never received a response.

Publicity and Controversy Regarding Historic Trees at Historic Haywood County Courthouse

There have been recent discussions regarding removal of the maple trees at the Historic Haywood County Courthouse. Paul Benson said the commission could make this a local landmark and then have the authority to deny the trees being cut down. Mr. Benson sent out a list to other historic districts and only one responded and in that case the county had some jurisdiction. He said the Historic Preservation Commission or the Haywood County Historical Society could approach the County Commissioners with their concerns about removing the trees. Mr. Benson said he also spoke with Daniel Hyatt about the trees. Mr. Hyatt said the trees are not good trees because they have been pruned too much, but otherwise they are healthy. The trees are a little over crowded and overgrown for their location. Sandra Owen had a suggestion that only one or two of the trees be removed. Mr. Benson recommended that the commission members speak with the Haywood County Commissioners. Bette Sprecher told the Board to just let their conscience be their guide.

Herbert Nelson asked about the window being blocked off at the Historic Courthouse. Paul Benson said this situation is ok. After he received a telephone call from Warren Gresham, Paul Benson called the State and Mr. Gresham spoke with the project's architect and everything was fine.

Adjournment

With no further business, David Felmet moved, seconded by Herbert Nelson, to adjourn the meeting at 2:35 p.m. The motion carried unanimously.

Bette H. Sprecher
Chairman

Phyllis R. McClure
Town Clerk