

REGULAR MEETING
TOWN OF WAYNESVILLE
HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION
FEBRUARY 6, 2008
WEDNESDAY - 2:00 P.M.
TOWN HALL

The Historic Preservation Commission held a regular meeting on Wednesday, February 6, 2008. Members present were Malinda Messer, Nikki Owens, Sandra Owen, Bette Sprecher, David Felmet, Herbert Nelson, Bob Kearney and Shawn Leatherwood. Peter Sterling was absent; he was out of town. Also present were Planning Director Paul Benson and Town Clerk Phyllis McClure. Chairman Sprecher called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m.

Approval of December 5, 2007 Minutes

David Felmet moved, seconded by Herbert Nelson, to approve the minutes of the December 5, 2007 meeting as amended by adding under the section "Presentation of Historic Landmark Plaques to Property Owners" the complete name of Brian Pierce, the minutes only reflected the first name. The motion carried unanimously.

Discussion Regarding Historic Walking Tour Brochure

Paul Benson said Malinda Messer was having some trouble with a map to be included in the brochure. He added that Ms. Messer has the text and photographs are available in the file if she needs them.

Malinda Messer said she was in need of a JPEG file of the map which she now has. An eight-panel fold brochure was being proposed. However, she does not have access to a software program such as "Port Express" which is needed for this type brochure. Ms. Messer said sponsors for the brochure are needed and this has not been discussed. Ms. Messer said she was not aware of some of the difficulties in going from three to four panels.

Paul Benson said he has about 300 electronic photographs of historic properties that were taken by Intern Amos Gilliam. Some of the photographs are not identified.

Paul Benson said that he and Town Manager Assistant Alison Melnikova could approach some of the local printers. Malinda pointed out that we don't have a number of brochures for publication and we don't know what the printing charge would be. Malinda said she was at the Bicentennial kick off and there will be plenty of Bicentennial events. The brochure will serve more purposes than for distribution during the Bicentennial. Malinda said she would be happy to put the brochures out for people to pickup during these events.

Bob Kearney said he has done some pro bono work for a graphic designer and feels that it would be good to have this brochure done as a saddled book. Shawn Leatherwood said if you use a fold out brochure it is difficult to include some of the historical information that people may be looking

for. It could also be a way to get the word out about tax incentives to people that may not read the Town's newsletter. Sandra Owen said this is one of those projects and it is great that Malinda, Paul and Alison have done all this work.

Shawn Leatherwood felt that a lot of businesses would be willing to contribute by putting their name on the back cover of the booklet.

There was discussion about how many copies should be printed. Paul Benson said an estimate is needed to help determine how many should be ordered. Bob Kearney will call Paul Benson to discuss the brochure further and have something to present to the Commission at the next meeting.

Strategy for Future Local Landmark Designation

Bette Sprecher said Dr. Abbatte was interested in getting his house designated as a local landmark. Paul Benson referred him to Rebecca Johnson with the State. Mr. Benson said houses with historic significance should be targeted to receive notification regarding historic designation. A grant application was submitted again this year, and the deadline was January 31. Sandra Owen said the commission still feels that the area historically known as "spread out" should be considered as a historic district. Paul Benson said he specifically mentioned this area in the application. Shawn Leatherwood said there are several projects going on in that area and if the residents are informed they may come in and request information to get historical designation for their property. He felt that it would be good to focus on areas such as "spread out" because this is where the most potential for damage is with all the renovations and changes being made.

The Commission said it would be good to find a way to get information to property owners about available benefits in historic districts and possibly head off some of the things that are going on. Nikki Owens suggested the possibility of requesting that Jeff Schmercker with The Mountaineer publish some articles containing fact sheets, contact information, etc., for individuals interested in having their property designated as a local landmark or listed on the National Register.

Herbert Nelson said a newspaper article is how he and his wife obtained information and decided to restore a historic house. They received an architectural award for the work on this house. The project took 18 months to complete. He supported starting a public campaign to get information to the public on historic properties.

Sandra Owen asked if a mass mailing would be possible to get the information to the public, especially about the neighborhood known as "spread out". It was suggested that Jeff Schmercker, a resident in this neighborhood, distribute information to his neighbors. Paul Benson said if the residents are interested, they may be able to pool their money with the Town's match to hire a professional. Mr. Benson added that Rebecca Johnson with the State has visited the area and wasn't really impressed with the idea of declaring the area a historical district. He asked that the Commission Members think about this before the next meeting.

Bette Sprecher - Public Art Commission

Bette Sprecher said Philan Medford gave her a brochure regarding the Public Art in Waynesville. They are in the process of selecting the first piece of artwork for Waynesville, adding that they are

going to have a meeting on April 3 and they are doing some great work for Waynesville.

Attendance Record

An attendance record of Historic Preservation Commission Members was distributed and will be discussed at the next meeting.

Adjournment

With no further business, David Felmet moved, seconded by Shawn Leatherwood, to adjourn the meeting at 2:56 p.m. The motion carried unanimously.

Phyllis R. McClure
Town Clerk

Bette Sprecher
Chairman