

REGULAR MEETING
TOWN OF WAYNESVILLE
HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION
DECEMBER 3, 2008
WEDNESDAY - 2:00 P.M.
TOWN HALL

The Historic Preservation Commission held a regular meeting on Wednesday, December 3, 2008. Members present were Herbert Nelson, David Felmet, Bette Sprecher, Sandra Owen and Peter Sterling. Absent were Bob Kearney, Shawn Leatherwood, Nikki Owens and Malinda Messer. 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 November 5, 2008

Herbert Nelson moved, seconded by David Felmet, to approve the minutes of the November 5, 2008 meeting as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

Continuation of Presentation of Five (5) Properties in Priority Order for Local Historic Landmark Designation

Herbert Nelson - District 2

1) The Herren House at 94 East Street, currently owned by Tom and Jenny Halsey and operated as a Bed and Breakfast.

The house was built in 1897 as a Boarding House by Mr. and Mrs. Owenby and operated as The Savannah House. In 1918 because of TB in the family they moved to Denver and sold the house to the Herren family. The Herren family operated the boarding house until the mid to late 1930's. In 1922 Lucille Herren married Henry Foy, Jr. and in 1924 Henry Foy III was born here. Nancy Dodd and Henry Foy renovated the house several years ago to its present pristine condition.

2) Mt. Olive Baptist Church, 28 Mt. Olive Road.

The Reverend Anthony Sweat is the current Pastor. This Church was originally a part of the First Baptist Church of Waynesville. Questions remain as to when the present name "Mt. Olive" was adopted, why this structure has twin steeples and who designed it and whether this building may have stood on a different site and been moved to its present location.

3) Jones Temple AME Church at 35 Thomas Park.

A history of the Church is being prepared. The pastor lives in South Atlanta and comes here on Friday evening of each week. He tends to Church business on Saturday and holds worship services on Sunday, returning to Atlanta that evening.

Herbert said the old Whitman house at 135 Hospital Street has siding and would not qualify as a local landmark.

Bette Sprecher commended Herbert on his report.

David Felmet, - District 4

David said the Nora Atkins House (October Hill) on Grimball Drive is already on the register as well as the Smathers House on Smathers Street. The Stackpole house and Belle house on Balsam Drive are both significant houses.

Virgil Messer is very interested in doing what is needed to get his house historically designated.

Two houses with historic significance include the Stackpole house on South Main Street and the Belle house on Balsam Drive.

Peter Sterling - District 5

Peter said he listed thirty properties to look at and visited each property. Out of 27 surveyed in the Meadow and Church Street areas, he rated the houses excellent, good, fair and poor. Some houses were deserted and some were derelict. 1/3 of the houses were in fair or poor condition. Two were in wonderful, pristine condition. The five houses he felt were in most danger were:

- 1) 257 Church Street (Cabe house)
- 2) 94 Tate Street (Cromer house)
- 3) 316 Richland Street (in fair condition)
- 4) 218 Boyd Avenue (very poor condition, needs major work)
- 5) 200 Boyd Avenue

Sandra Owen and Bette Sprecher - District 6

231 Water Street - Queen Anne Cottage in Frog Level was owned by Lyle Coffey and donated to the Frog Level Merchants Association. There appears to be no clear title to the property. Some title searches have been done by Attorney Jack Kersten and Shirley Ezell and a clear title could not be found. The Historic Frog Level Association decided to sell the property after it was donated to them, but have been unable to do so because of the issue of a clear title.

102 and 200 Branner Avenue - beside Walker Service. According to Shirley Ezell the houses were built in 1863. It is amazing that the houses haven't fallen down or been destroyed in some other way. The houses have survived two generations of the Coffey family and were possibly once owned by the Miller family. A representative of the Coffey family indicated that they would like to seek historic designation of the properties.

Historic Preservation Commission Members felt that letters should be sent to the owners of historically significant properties in each district encouraging them to seek historic designation.

Spring Training

Paul Benson said he would contact Sybil Bowers to find out if she would be available to conduct a seminar in April 2009 for the Historic Preservation Commission Members. It was felt that historic property owners could be invited to attend the seminar. The most convenient nights for the seminar would be Monday, Tuesday or Thursday. April 16 and April 23 at 7:00 p.m. were suggested dates. Bette Sprecher asked Paul to let her know when Ms. Bowers would be available and she will reserve the meeting room at the Haywood County Library.

Peter Sterling asked how we could take advantage of the historic properties in the community. Paul Benson said we could apply for an inventory update or for National Registry Nominations. Mr. Benson said the applications to apply for these grants are not lengthy and applications must be submitted before January 31st.

Paul Benson will see if it might be possible for the Town to get an intern.

Some historic properties of concern include The Old Stone Inn on Dolan Road, 365 Love Lane (Kirkpatrick Farms owned by Ruth Curtis) and Herbert Nelson expressed concern about properties on Woolsey Heights.

Review of Historic Preservation Commission Member Attendance

Peter Sterling said he planned to remain in Waynesville this year. Sandra Owen will call Malinda Messer. The Town of Waynesville's Employee Appreciation Luncheon will be Friday, December 5. Nikki Owen has been on maternity leave, but plans to attend the luncheon and someone can ask her at that time when she will be able to begin attending the HPC meetings again. Since Nikki works with Shawn Leatherwood, they will also ask her about Shawn. Attendance of Historic Preservation Commission Members will be discussed at the January meeting.

Adjournment

With no further business, Herbert Nelson moved, seconded by David Felmet, to adjourn the meeting at 3:00 p.m. The motion carried unanimously.

Phyllis R. McClure
Town Clerk

Bette H. Sprecher
Chairman