

REGULAR MEETING
HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION
TOWN OF WAYNESVILLE
FEBRUARY 4, 2009
WEDNESDAY - 2:00 P.M.
TOWN HALL

The Historic Preservation Commission held a regular meeting on Wednesday, February 4, 2009. Members present were Peter Sterling, Sandra Owen, Shawn Leatherwood, Nikki Owens, Bette Sprecher, David Felmet, Herbert Nelson, Bob Kearney and Tom Shaw. 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.

Chairman Bette Sprecher introduced newly appointed member Tom Shaw.

Approval of Minutes of January 7, 2009

David Felmet moved, seconded by Herbert Nelson, to approve the minutes of the January 7, 2009 meeting as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

Discussion of Spread Out District

Paul Benson said Clay Griffin is working on this and the grant application has been submitted for consideration to request that this area be added to the National Study List. An announcement will be made regarding the grant recipients in March or April 2009.

Potential Local Historic Landmarks

Over the past few months, Historic Preservation Commission members have been driving throughout districts in Waynesville and compiling lists of properties as potential local historic landmarks. After hearing comments from the commission members, Paul Benson prepared a draft list of those potential properties. The owners of these properties will be notified of the upcoming workshop so that they can receive information on the benefits of this historic designation for their properties.

David Felmet said the yellow house at 280 Boyd Avenue belonging to Dick Boyd was built with lumber that was sawed on Campbell Creek in Maggie Valley.

Peter Sterling said the first two houses on Boyd Avenue (200 and 218) are in very poor condition and won't last through another generation.

David Felmet said the Adger house at 127 Balsam Drive has aluminum siding. Shawn Leatherwood said he did some drawings of this house when Mr. Moody was alive and met with a representative of State Archives and History. It was difficult to determine the originality of some parts of the

house, however, it is an interesting house from a historical and architectural standpoint.

Herbert Nelson said siding has been added to the house at 55 Hospital Street.

Nikki Owens had a copy of the design guidelines for Ocracoke. She said the guidelines addressed various issues and it is best to keep them as traditional as possible.

Bette Sprecher said it is important to give information about the benefits of historical designation and what you have to do to get those benefits.

Tom Shaw said the National Park Service has a series of preservation briefs on issues such as roofing and siding. This information is available on line and can be printed for distribution if the commission would like to do so.

Shawn Leatherwood suggested that the building inspectors be informed in these areas so they could have someone call one of the commission members or Paul to get additional information before making changes to their buildings. Paul Benson said he works with the building inspectors and he can discuss this with them.

Peter Sterling said if you just pick the top 10% you miss a lot of history and he would hope that the list was more than just the best looking houses in Waynesville.

Paul Benson said the ones on the list are significant because of unique architecture or connection to a particular person or family, adding that you can't preserve everything and it is best to keep projects manageable for the commission.

Nikki Owens said the Allens Creek houses were built because of the mill that is no longer there and she felt that this makes them unique.

Peter Sterling said Habitat for Humanity changed the way people look at houses with the way houses were built for low income families.

Bob Kearney said tangible success would be if each commission member can help with preserving one house per year, adding that the records show there hasn't been a local landmark designation in the past three to four years. He said the commission has to do something that is manageable and you have to stimulate the interest of the public to get this done.

Shawn Leatherwood said both goals are compatible. The interest and excitement will filter down as people see and hear about other local landmark designations in the community. He added that the commission must have an achievable goal.

Herbert Nelson said when a local group has an area designated as a historic district it is because this is what their community wanted. We are remiss if we don't pursue more historic districts and this can be done by working through neighborhood organizations.

Tom Shaw said in South Carolina, the National Register Program sometimes was the first step and then eventually local designation. He said he was not familiar with the inventory of properties in Waynesville. Mr. Shaw said there is an informational process for the National Registry and he has been through this with a lot of different communities. Each community is unique and different.

Bette Sprecher said it costs approximately \$5,000 to do the research work for the local landmark nomination and this can be difficult, especially during difficult economic times.

Bob Kearney said there may be some type of compromise and he felt that commission members may be able to help with a property's description, eliminating the need for a professional.

Paul Benson said the commission has a targeted list and he suggested that commission members visit and talk with the property owners about historic designation.

Herbert Nelson said in District 2 Jones Temple is listed, but AME Zion should be listed since both churches in this district should be included in the list.

Paul Benson said if anyone sees corrections to the list please let him know.

Bette Sprecher felt that Woolsey Heights should be on the list.

Bob Kearney said with only eight or nine weeks left until the workshop, commission members should individually knock on some doors and invite people to come to these meetings. He said the commission needs to commit to how they can help the homeowners.

Paul Benson said Becky Johnson from Asheville will be at the workshop, as well as Tom Alexander and the new preservation coordinator from Raleigh.

Bette Sprecher said last year the slides that were shown were houses in Raleigh. It was suggested that slides of local landmark designations in Waynesville be shown. Nikki Owens asked if any of those property owners would be willing to talk about the process. If so, they should be invited to the meeting.

Peter Sterling said he could sit down with Henry Foy and Bruce Briggs to get some photos of old Waynesville to compare the old with the new.

Bob Kearney said he had some camera ready pages from the brochure and some images could be put together to put on the computer for a slide show. Commission members Peter Sterling, Nikki Owens and Bob Kearney will stay after the meeting to discuss gathering this information.

Paul Benson said information will be provided at the workshop regarding the local landmark program. Ted Alexander will have handouts for those attending. Mr. Benson presented a draft letter to be mailed to property owners.

Haywood County Bicentennial

Bette Sprecher said Mountain Heritage at Cullowhee is preparing an exhibit for the Haywood County Bicentennial. February 12 is the grand opening of the exhibit at the Haywood County Library. The exhibit will then be moved to the Historic Society room at the Haywood County Courthouse. She invited all commission members to come if they can.

Adjournment

With no further business, Herbert Nelson moved, seconded by David Felmet to adjourn the meeting at 3:21 p.m. The motion carried unanimously.

Phyllis R. McClure
Town Clerk

Bette H. Sprecher
Chairman