

REGULAR MEETING  
HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION  
TOWN OF WAYNESVILLE  
SEPTEMBER 2, 2009  
WEDNESDAY, 2:00 P.M.  
“NEW” TOWN HALL, 9 SOUTH MAIN STREET

The Historic Preservation Commission held a regular meeting on Wednesday, September 2, 2009. Members present were Chairman Nikki Owens, Vice-Chairman Bob Kearney, David Felmet, Shawn Leatherwood, Sandra Owen, Bette Sprecher, Peter Sterling, new commission member Bill Kramer and Administrative Assistant Ginny Boyer. Those absent included Planning Director Paul Benson and Herbert Nelson. Chairman Owens called the meeting to order at 2:05.

Approval of Minutes

Bette Sprecher made a motion to accept the minutes of August 5<sup>th</sup>, 2009 HPC meeting as presented. Peter Sterling seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Welcome New HPC Member Bill Kramer

The Board welcomed Bill Kramer as the newest HPC member, filling the place of Tom Shaw. Mr. Kramer lives at 24 Shelton Street. He is an antiques collector and has experience in restoring older homes. Bob Kearney asked if he is a local resident, and Mr. Kramer said he is not. Bob Kearney was concerned about the issue of an out-of-state resident on a local board. Ginny Boyer agreed to check into the matter. Bette Sprecher suggested asking the Town Attorney, Woody Griffin.

Resignation of Herbert Nelson

There was also mention of another vacancy; Herbert Nelson resigned due to a move. Bette Sprecher mentioned having Ann Melton serve in Herb Nelson's place. Bette will take an application to her. Sandra Owen said we should give Herb Nelson credit and thank him for his service on the Commission. Chairman Owens read the resignation letter of Mr. Nelson to the Commission.

Walking Tour Brochure

Bob Kearney said he recently sent specs to Town Planner, Paul Benson. The new houses (those mentioned in the August 5<sup>th</sup> meeting as being additions to walking tour brochure) will fit. He also mentioned the proposed press run at 5,000. With the Town of Waynesville requiring two or three bids, Chairman Owens mentioned that Paul Benson will hopefully have bids at the next meeting so the Commission can vote on them. He mentioned Cornerstone's bids, one at \$3,042 and one at \$2,864 (cheaper paper stock). It was decided that Bob Kearney would contact Paul Benson to discuss the bids regarding the upcoming brochure.

There was continued discussion regarding costs of the brochure, if any, to consumers and possible locations for distribution. Chairman Owens asked each member to compile a list for the next meeting to discuss possible distribution points.

Chairman Owens wants to include in the brochure the mention of the rock wall inventory because that does make Waynesville different. She mentioned the cemetery rock wall in particular as one worthy of mention in the brochure. Chairman Owens and Shawn Leatherwood agreed to come up with the information to be included in the brochure regarding rock walls.

Chairman Owens suggested including a blurb in the brochure regarding the Waynesville Historic Preservation Commission and what the Commission does.

Shawn Leatherwood was in agreement with the addition of these two items, but suggested to keep the brochure focused and not to add anything else.

Sandra Owen asked that the parameters of the grant for the brochure be reflected in the minutes. Ginny made a note to include that for an agenda item discussion at an upcoming meeting.

#### Monthly Mountaineer Article Highlighting Local Landmark Properties

There was continued discussion regarding the articles for publication in the Mountaineer. Members had varying opinions on when the first article would be submitted, but members did agree that each article would be presented to members of the commission before submitting to the Mountaineer.

Bob Kearney made mention of the upcoming 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Town of Waynesville and said the WHPC needs to be the driving force of something to commemorate the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Chairman Owens felt that by having the first article ready for publication by January 1<sup>st</sup>, and subsequent articles monthly thereafter, would be a way to do just that.

#### Field Trip to Spread Out

Ginny read an e-mail correspondence from Paul Benson regarding a possible field trip to Spread Out during the next HPC meeting of October 7<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Benson stated, “we should have our consultant doing the National Register nomination under contract by then. I will ask him to conduct the tour.”

Also, a copy of the State Historic Preservation Office Study List Application of “Spread Out” Historic District, provided by Paul Benson, was distributed to commission members.

Chairman Owens felt that members should meet first before going on the field trip next meeting.

#### Question of Williamson House Designation

After some discussion of the history behind the Williamson House, David Felmet moved that the WHPC pull designation of the Williamson House. Bette Sprecher seconded. Chairman Owens then took the floor with the motion of “recommending to the Board of Aldermen that we revoke local designation” (of the Williamson House). The majority of the commission voted in favor with two abstentions. Both Sandra Owen and Bob Kearney abstained.

#### Other Business:

There were many questions regarding a tree that came down at October Hill (Atkins House): Was the tree removed due to the upcoming NCDOT road-widening project of South Main Street? Does local landmark status and/or historic designation protect properties in the path of upcoming projects? Since grounds and trees are covered under designation, shouldn't the one(s) responsible be required to replant? What are the repercussions for disturbing protected properties' trees? What action should the WHPC take?

Bob Kearney suggested that the responsible approach would be for the commission to invite NCDOT to an upcoming WHPC meeting so that the Commission would be informed about the project and would be able to voice concerns. David Felmet reiterated, as everyone was in agreement, that it is the consensus of the WHPC that we ask DOT to come in because we are concerned about historic properties.

Chairman Owens asked that the meeting with NCDOT be scheduled for November due to the field trip planned for the October meeting.

Bette Sprecher mentioned the opening of the Historical Society's museum on the third floor of the renovated courthouse, room 308. Hours of operation are Mondays and Fridays, 1:30pm-4:30 pm.

#### Adjournment

David Felmet moved to adjourn and Bette Sprecher seconded. All were in favor. The meeting adjourned at 3:46 p.m.

♪(Happy Birthday to Dave, Happy Birthday to Dave. . . .)♪☺

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Ginny Boyer  
Secretary

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Nikki Owens  
Chairman