

REGULAR MEETING
HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION
TOWN OF WAYNESVILLE
MAY 5, 2010
WEDNESDAY, 2:00 PM
MUNICIPAL BUILDING

The Historic Preservation Commission held a regular meeting on Wednesday, May 5, 2010. Members in attendance were Chairman Nikki Owens, Vice-Chairman Bob Kearney, Peter Sterling, Sandra Owen, Bette Sprecher, and Shawn Leatherwood. Also present were Planning Director Paul Benson, Administrative Assistant Ginny Boyer and former Town of Waynesville Mayor Henry Foy. Commission member David Felmet, Jr. was absent due to illness. Chairman Owens called the meeting to order at 2:02.

Approval of Minutes

Bette Sprecher made a motion to accept the minutes of February 3, 2010 and April 7, 2010 as presented. Shawn Leatherwood seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Summary of Old Haywood County Hospital tour (1230 North Main Street)

Bette Sprecher voiced her concern about the possibility of the Old Haywood County Hospital being torn down, something Marty Stamey, Assistant County Manager, assures her will not happen. While something may be done in the back, the front will be left alone, including the mature trees.

Shawn Leatherwood mentioned the viability of renovating such structures. He is aware of developers who have purchased similar properties and converted them with much success. You need to know how to navigate the waters of the tax credits and tax breaks, the projects can be very profitable.

Paul Benson mentioned that we could lobby for them to place a covenant to keep it from demolition. Mr. Benson said the building is National Register eligible, with both historical and architectural significance. With its being on the National Register, a State designation, the door would be opened for tax credits. He mentioned that with a tight budget crunch of both Haywood County and Town of Waynesville, it would be up to individuals, private contributions, to hire a consultant to prepare the report as a first step.

Nikki Owens mentioned its being the first campus hospital in the southeast and Mr. Benson agreed it would meet the criteria for both historical and architectural significance.

Chairman Owens asked that the Old Haywood County Hospital remain on the agenda for meetings to come so that the subject of its being National Register eligible could be explored in greater detail.

Walking Tour Brochure

Vice Chairman Bob Kearney mentioned changing the name of the upcoming brochure from “walking tour” to “self-guided” so that more could be included in the tour brochure, not necessarily those in close proximity to one another. Shawn Leatherwood mentioned that this name would also allow for further growth of the brochure in future editions. Shawn Leatherwood made a motion to change the name for the brochure from “walking tour” to “self-guided”. Bette Sprecher seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Sandra Owen asked that a date of publication be included.

The topic of adding a line of type to the brochure regarding a “suggested donation” and a dollar amount came up. Paul Benson suggested setting up a revenue account, the advantage being the Historic Preservation Commission would have control over it. Shawn Leatherwood made a motion that the Historic Preservation Commission have a revenue account set up through the Town of Waynesville for revenue generated from the sale of the self-guided tour brochure. Vice-Chairman Bob Kearney seconded the motion and all were in favor. Paul Benson will check into the legalities of such.

Peter Sterling and Sandra Owen with “Enlivening Downtown” ideas, specifically, Waynesville Snapshot Project (a handout was provided to Commission members outlining the project’s scope).

Waynesville Snapshot Project is an attempt to build a photographic collection which will be located in any public place for public use. The seven photographs which have been restored by photo editing were passed among members.

Photographs from the collections of former Mayor Henry Foy and Louise Nelson have begun to be restored through photo editing, enlarged and mounted to be shared (loaned) for the purpose of preserving history and raising awareness.

One of the main display locations would be empty storefronts “to off-set the image of closed businesses and to convey the message of a town that has continued to meet challenges with spirit and determination”. Other possible locations include the new town hall, municipal building, HART theater lobby, schools and nursing homes to encourage oral history.

The first completed photo for exhibition was presented, that being of the old depot in Frog Level. The enlarged photograph was matted and framed in white, clipped to a foam core back. Each corner had decorative black accents, reminiscent of old scrapbook photo corners.

Peter Sterling mentioned the average cost of each display in the range of \$80-\$100. He has plans for five in the first round, five in the second.

Commission members thanked Peter Sterling and Sandra Owen for their time and effort on this “wonderful” “delightful” and “exciting” endeavor.

Appalachian Lifestyle Celebration

The Downtown Waynesville Association’s June 5th event, Appalachian Lifestyle, has been

canceled.

Update on Hannah-Graham House

Planning Director Paul Benson informed the Commission that Preservation North Carolina now has an option on the historic home. They have it advertised and will market it with protective covenants.

Cemetery Tour

Paul Benson mentioned that the Stringfield family inquired as to who would be a good candidate to provide tours through Greenhill Cemetery. Bette Sprecher mentioned Bruce Briggs and provided Paul with the number.

Adjournment

With no further business, Shawn Leatherwood moved, seconded by Bob Kearney, to adjourn the meeting at 3pm.

Nikki Haynes Owens
Chairman

Ginny Boyer
Secretary