

REGULAR MEETING
HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION
TOWN OF WAYNESVILLE
NOVEMBER 3, 2010
WEDNESDAY, 2:00 PM
TOWN HALL, 9 SOUTH MAIN STREET

The Historic Preservation Commission held a regular meeting on Wednesday, November 3, 2010. Members in attendance were: Chairman Nikki Owens, Vice-Chairman Peter Sterling, Henry Foy, Sandra Owen, Bob Kearney, Shawn Leatherwood, Bette Sprecher and Ann Melton. Also present were Planning Director Paul Benson and Secretary Ginny Boyer.

Approval of Minutes

Henry Foy made a motion to accept the minutes of October 6, 2010 as presented. Bette Sprecher seconded and all were in favor.

Presentation of Windover Inn Plaque

Glenn and Jennifer Duerr, owners of Windover Inn (James Hardin and Pearl Howell House) attended the meeting and were presented with a plaque by Chairman Owens. The plaque was given to them in recognition of their home being designated a local historic landmark in June of 2010. The Duerrs thanked the Historic Preservation Commission for their help in achieving this designation.

J.B.S. McIntosh Building local landmark designation removal

Commission members discussed the letter (“RE: Revocation of Landmark Designation for J.B.S. McIntosh Building, 188-190 North Main Street”) and report (“Local Landmark Removal Report for J.B.S. McIntosh Building, 188-190 North Main Street”) drawn up by Mr. Benson addressed to Ms. Becca Johnson of the Western Office of Archives and History in Asheville.

The commission’s purpose is stated as follows in the letter: “to follow due process in considering the removal of landmark designation, we would like to provide your office with an opportunity to comment on the potential removal of this designation”.

After much discussion among members, Bob Kearney made a motion to remove number 3 on the report regarding historical significance and “stick with the architectural aspects” which was seconded by Shawn Leatherwood. All were in favor.

Sandra Owen suggested taking out references to the commission voting to have the building’s designation removed (last sentence of report and paragraph three in letter).

Shawn Leatherwood made a motion to send the letter and report to the State with the following amendments:

In the report, delete item 3: “The designation report lists a series of owners and business that have occupied the building but none are deemed by the report or the current Historic Preservation membership to have special historical significance.”

In the report, delete the last sentence: “Accordingly, the Commission has voted to recommend that this designation be removed by the Town of Waynesville Board of Aldermen”.

In the letter, delete paragraph 3: “As you know, no effort was made by the Commission at the time of designation to address these issues, and they are the primary reason the current membership of the Waynesville Historic Preservation Commission has voted to recommend that the landmark designation be removed from this building”, await a response from the State, then vote on whether or not to repeal local landmark designation at that time. Bette Sprecher seconded and all were in favor.

Peter Sterling mentioned the Commission needed to learn from this experience so that in the future, the Commission will not find itself in this situation.

Paul Benson suggested to “pay heed to the State review, the designation report. In this case the State sent a letter that you all have a copy of basically saying this building did not qualify for designation. The lesson to learn is “listen to the State; if it doesn’t qualify, don’t designate it and you won’t be in this position again”.

Love Lane Public Workshop update

Paul Benson reported that Intern Melanie Verges, now busy with school and no longer with us, was to his knowledge unable to get anyone from the State to commit to one of the possible workshop dates.

Shawn Leatherwood made a motion for Chairman Owens and Planning Director Benson to coordinate efforts and reschedule workshop date possibilities. Chairman Owens agreed to work on this.

Peter Sterling mentioned the environment of the workshop should be “very informal” so we don’t look like an authoritative board but colleagues working together. He mentioned the Recreation Center as being a possibility for a meeting place. Bette Sprecher mentioned the hallway outside the board room or the home of the Isenbergs.

Update on Hannah Graham House

Chairman Owens said she would take it upon herself to find out the status.

Update on Walking Tour Brochure

Bob Kearney mentioned being up to \$1,578 in sales which doesn’t include collections from Tourism Development Authority or Waynesville Finance Department.

Mr. Kearney mentioned one good use of the photograph of Nikki presenting the plaque to the owners of Windover Inn is to tie that into an article in the Mountaineer mentioning the walking tour brochure again and suggesting it as a stocking stuffer.

Peter Sterling excused himself from the meeting.

Other Business

Chairman Owens mentioned two items of interest: the old Post Office in Hazelwood has an owner who is interested in seeking national register listing and local landmark designation. Restoration of the original façade is something the owners hope to achieve. Secondly, and most likely rumor or Halloween prank, the open field in Woolsey Heights, in front of the three homes atop the hill is being looked at as a possible location for a Dollar General.

Ann Melton mentioned beginning the process for designating Woolsey Heights as a local historic district.

Shawn Leatherwood mentioned taking the initiative and approaching the owners of Woolsey Heights in hopes that local historic district status could be achieved.

Ann Melton volunteered to gather the information needed to begin the process toward Woolsey Heights' local historic district status.

Ann Melton asked the Commission to consider her house at 203 Love Lane for local landmark designation.

Henry Foy made a motion, seconded by Bette Sprecher, that Ann's local landmark designation report for 203 Love Lane, complete with comments, photos and interior information, be sent to the State for their comments. All were in favor.

Adjourn

Shawn Leatherwood made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Bette Sprecher. All were in favor and the meeting adjourned at 3:17 pm.

Ginny Boyer, Secretary

Nikki Owens, Chairman