

Minutes
Union County Historic Preservation Commission
November 3, 2009

The Union County Historic Preservation Commission met at 3:30 on Tuesday, November 3, 2009 in the Heritage Room at the historic Union County Courthouse, Monroe, North Carolina.

Present: Virginia Bjorlin, Al Diehl, Sis Dillon, Danny Stegall, Brad Hudson,
Dr. Jerry Surratt

Absent: Carolyn Funderburk, Margaret Bivens, Charles Williams

Also Present: Mary Lou Gamble, Harriett Moore

Approval of Minutes

Mrs. Bjorlin asked if there were any corrections or additions to the minutes of the October meeting. Mrs. Dillon motioned to approve the October minutes. Mr. Diehl seconded the motion and the minutes were approved unanimously as written.

Financial Report

Mrs. Bjorlin asked the commission members to review the financial report. The report was approved and will be filed with the minutes.

Report of Committees

Mrs. Bjorlin asked Mrs. Dillon for an update on lighting of the courthouse. There is a plan that has been submitted to the County with a quote of \$26,000 to place lights at the four corners of the square. Mrs. Dillon mentioned that John Ashcraft had talked to Wayne Herron, City Manager, who noted that the lack of lighting could be a safety hazard. Mrs. Dillon suggested that a local electrical company, Long Wiring, could possibly bid on the project.

Unfinished Business

Concerning the election of officers, Mrs. Bjorlin pointed out that the duties of the person who is appointed chairman would be to preside over the meetings of the Historic Preservation Commission. Mrs. Bjorlin and staff volunteers would continue doing all work pertaining to preservation work at the Heritage Room. Dr. Surratt suggested that Mrs. Bjorlin remain in place as chair until her term expires. At that time, the appointed vice chair will move to chairman and the commission will appoint a new vice chairman. Dr. Surratt nominated Al Diehl as Vice Chair and Mrs. Dillon volunteered to serve as Secretary/Treasurer.

The commission elected the following members for the 2009-2010 term:

Chairman: Virginia Bjorlin (until term expires April, 2010)

Vice Chairman: Al Diehl

Secretary/Treasurer: Sis Dillon

Dr. Surratt made the motion to approve the nominations for each office and Mr. Stegall seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Order seal?

Mrs. Bjorlin said that the new Waxhaw Commission is still being organized. Emmy Lou Haywood is now a member of their commission.

Mrs. Bjorlin reported that the William Houston House on Goldmine Road at Dead Man's Curve is still standing at this time, but was sold September 11, 2009 and will be demolished.

Regarding the designation of the Stallings Methodist Church, Mrs. Bjorlin said that Sidney Halma will be paid \$500 once he completes and delivers the Survey and Research Report. The report will then be sent to Archives.

Mrs. Bjorlin stated that the Marshville Town Council adopted an ordinance on October 5, 2009 designating the Hamilton-Marsh House, 1311 Highway 205, Marshville, NC as an historic property. Mrs. Gamble has sent a complete designation report to the owners, William M. and Patricia S. Potter.

Mrs. Bjorlin asked the commission members if they may know of anyone interested in purchasing the Marshville Baptist Church built in 1924. The Marshville Town Council is in disagreement about the future of the church. Marshville is asking one million dollars for the church which is in need of repair. Mrs. Margaret Bivens, a member of the Marshville Town Council wants to save the church.

Consideration of Applications

Other than Stallings Methodist Church, Mrs. Bjorlin said that we do not have any pending applications for designation at this time.

New Business

Mrs. Bjorlin said that old grandfather clock used in the courtroom in the late 1800's has been delivered to the clockman for repair. Though no extensive work will be done to the clock, he plans to refinish the outside and check the wooden workings of the clock. The clock has been given on permanent loan by a former Union County native and relative of Judge Julian Brooks, who was given the clock in 1925 while serving as magistrate.

Mrs. Bjorlin mentioned that she had received an email from the preservation office in Raleigh concerning the Guidelines for NC Certified Local Government Programs handbook that requires two or more commission members to attend at least one informational meeting per year about the function of the work of the commission. This will be discussed further at a later date concerning some workshops.

Mrs. Bjorlin mentioned the movie "The Trial" is being filmed in the historic courthouse this week and next week. A day of filming will be done in the Heritage Room on November 11.

Mrs. Bjorlin referred to the October minutes concerning salary increases for the two part-time employees in the Heritage Room. Mrs. Gamble read the October minutes stating that the commission members had approved a salary increase in line with the percentage given to the County employees. The County employees did not receive raises this year, therefore the commission would have to make an independent decision. Brad Hudson made a motion to give raises in line with last year's percentage and Mr. Stegall seconded the motion. All members voted in favor.

The increase would be retroactive to September 1, 2009.

Adjournment

The next meeting will be December 1 at 3:30 in the Heritage Room.

Respectfully submitted,

Virginia Bjorlin