

Union County Historic Preservation Commission
Regular Meeting
September 5, 2013

The Union County Historic Preservation Commission held a regular meeting on Thursday, September 5, 2013, at 1:30 pm in the Heritage Room located in the historic Union County Courthouse, Monroe, North Carolina.

Present: Dr. Jerry Surratt, Crystal Crump, Dale Logerger, Barbara Moore, Danny Stegall
Absent: John Dickerson, Jane Ellickson
Also Present: Mary Lou Gamble, Staff; Virginia Bjorlin

The meeting was called to order by Dr. Jerry Surratt, Chairman.

Approval of Minutes

Dr. Surratt asked if there were additions or corrections to the minutes of the June 18, 2013 meeting. Mr. Loberger made motion that the minutes be approved. Mr. Stegall seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous.

Financial Report

The financial report was presented and approved unanimously.

Other Business

Dr. Surratt stated that the widening of Old Charlotte Highway/Old Monroe Road, originally proposed in 1998, is now once again being proposed in the vicinity of the Rock Store. Mrs. Bjorlin represented the Union County Historic Preservation Commission on Tuesday, August 27, 2:00-4:30pm at a public hearing about the widening of the road and the impact it would have on the area. Mrs. Bjorlin reported that she and Carolyn Funderburk, owner of the Rock Store, attended the hearing.

The proposed widening will be from Trade Street/John Street intersection in Matthews, NC to Sun Valley High School in Indian Trail, NC. It will be done in three sections and the Rock Store will be involved in the middle section which will be built first. Mrs. Bjorlin said that she believes the plans are still in the preliminary stage and construction may not begin until 2015. A copy of a letter from the Union County Planning Department dated February 2, 1998 was given to the Commission members and they were asked to refer to the third paragraph regarding the widening of Old Charlotte Highway/Old Monroe Road stating that widening would have to avoid the Rock Store. Mrs. Bjorlin noted that the letter states that the Rock Store is eligible for the National Register and has also been designated as a local historic landmark. Dr. Surratt asked that Mrs. Funderburk be requested to keep the Commission updated on any additional correspondence she receives regarding this proposed project.

After discussion, Mrs. Moore made a motion that the Union County Historic Preservation Commission send a letter to the NC Dept. of Transportation regarding project #U-4714, advising them that the Rock Store is a designated property. Mrs. Crump seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous. Mr. Stegall suggested that copies of the letter be sent to the DOT project managers in Monroe and Albemarle. Mr. Stegall will provide the addresses to Mrs. Gamble.

Dr. Surratt said that the expiration of terms needs to be acknowledged. Mrs. Moore was appointed by the Board of Union County Commissioners to fill the vacancy created by the expiration of Brad Hudson's two terms. Mr. Stegall's two terms expire in October, and Dr. Surratt will begin his second term in October. Mrs. Gamble suggested Mr. Pat Turner, owner of the Heath House, as a possibility for appointment to the Commission by the City of Monroe. Mrs. Gamble will contact Mr. Turner. Mr. Loberger suggested Mike Duke, owner of the Coca-Cola Building on Franklin Street, as a candidate. Dr. Surratt said that he will contact the Mayor of Wingate again and encourage him to make an appointment. A letter from the Union county Commissioners was received today stating that Mr. Stephen C. Long, who lives in Indian Trail, has been appointed to fill the vacancy made by the expiration of Sis Dillon's term.

Dr. Surratt stated that a letter needs to be drafted releasing Union County from liability for future exhibits placed by individuals in the historic Union County Courthouse. Dr. Surratt said that he has talked with the library officials regarding a policy for exhibits and was told they do not have any formal documents regarding liability, but they accept a Gentlemen's Agreement saying that the Library does not accept any liability. Dr. Surratt asked Mr. Loberger to draft a letter of agreement addressing the issues to the County - including a statement that the owners of the exhibit will be present when the exhibit is open to the public. Dr. Surratt suggested the Mr. Loberger call Mr. Jack Clay, who has placed exhibits in several locations and ask if he has ideas about the wording in the letter. Mrs. Gamble asked if the letter should also note that Carolinas Genealogical Society, the Historical Society, and the Union County Historic Preservation Commission - are sponsors of the Heritage Room.

Mrs. Crump said that she received an email in August from Linn Garibaldi inquiring about his property being designated as an historic landmark. He had planned to attend the September meeting but could not. Mrs. Crump said that she researched Mr. Garibaldi's tax record. The house, located outside of Marshville, is situated on 3.7 acres on Philadelphia Church Road, and the house was built in 1960. Mrs. Gamble will send Mr. Garibaldi a Designation Manual.

Mrs. Gamble gave a report on staff activities.

- 1- The Ordinance has been received from the City of Monroe designating the Neese Apartments as an Historic Landmark. A complete packet was sent to James Kerr.
- 2- Five letters have been received regarding construction of communications towers in parts of the county and the county map was checked for locations; no designated properties are compromised.
- 3- A tour of courthouse was conducted on July 24 for the Firemans/Deputies Convention. Jack Clay set up exhibits in two rooms. Fifty people were expected, only seven attended. The visitors were more interested in movies made here than the architecture. They were given handouts.
- 4- A response was made to an email received by Dr. Surratt from Mary Ellen Whitford, University of Edinburgh, requesting information about this Commission and if and how demolition of a designated landmark was handled.
- 5- Craig Fox, Facilities Division Manager, visited on August 26. The county is planning to restore the doors at the Old Post Office with the original design. He was given a Designation Procedures Manual and will submit an Application for Certificate of Appropriateness. A note was found in the designation folder about a picture of the post office when it was under construction in 1913, showing the doors.
- 6- A letter and brochure for the "Lower Providence Community House" has been received from Paulette Kerr. A copy of the brochure is placed with the agenda for today. Paulette suggested that the Commission might plan to meet at the Community House which was built in 1939 and is designated as an Historic Landmark.

Dr. Surratt announced that the annual convention of the North Carolina Preservation Society will be held in September 19 - 21 in Asheville, NC.

Dr. Surratt announced that the next meeting will be October 3, 2013.

Mrs. Moore made a motion to draft a resolution that can be adopted by the Historic Preservation Commission to amend the meeting schedule whereby a selected month in each quarter would be designated for the meeting of the Union County Historic Preservation Commission with a provision that a special meeting could be called when necessary. Mrs. Crump seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous. Dr. Surratt noted the Commission must hold at least one meeting in each quarter as required by the Ordinance. He asked that this resolution be placed on the agenda for the next meeting.

Mr. Loberger made the motion that the meeting was adjourned. Mr. Stegall seconded the motion.

Respectively submitted,

Jerry Surratt, Ph.D.
Chairman