

Union County Historic Preservation Commission
Regular Meeting
May 1, 2014

The Union County Historic Preservation Commission held a regular meeting on Thursday, May 1, 2014, at 1:30 pm in the Heritage Room located in the historic Union County Courthouse, Monroe, North Carolina.

Present: Dr. Jerry Surratt, Crystal Crump, John Dickerson, Melvin Faris, Barbara Moore,
Absent: Dale Loberger, Jane Ellickson, Stephen Long
Also Present: Mary Lou Gamble, Staff; Virginia Bjorlin, Historical Society;
Craig Fox, Union Co. Public Works; Matthew Delk, Asst. Union Co. Manager;
S. Dean Glenn, Carolyn Braswell, Jack Clay

The meeting was called to order by Dr. Jerry Surratt, Chairman. Dr. Surratt welcomed Mr. Melvin Faris to his first meeting of the Preservation Commission since being appointed and Mrs. Carolyn Braswell as a possible representative from the town of Wingate to serve on the Commission. All other visitors were recognized.

Approval of Minutes

Dr. Surratt asked if there were additions or corrections to the minutes of the February 27, 2014 meeting. There were none. Mrs. Moore made motion that the minutes be approved. Mr. Dickerson seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous.

Financial Report

Mrs. Gamble said that she has sent letters to the City of Monroe and Union County requesting the third quarter appropriations for the 2013- 2014 budget. The public hearing for the presentation of the Union County budget will be held June 2. The city of Monroe has not scheduled the date for its public hearing. The financial report was presented and approved unanimously.

Old Business

Dr. Surratt said that a loan form has been drafted which will enable local exhibitors to display their collections in the historic Courthouse. Dr. Surratt asked Mrs. Moore to review the form with the other Commission members. Mrs. Moore introduced a short form for temporary exhibits. The form is based on the Standard Form of National Recognition that Mrs. Moore has amended to protect the County and the Historic Preservation Commission from any liability to either party. Mr. Clay, who has exhibited at several local museums and the Union County Library has agreed to be first exhibitor in the Courthouse. Mrs. Moore discussed the exhibit policies listed on the form with the Commission members. Mrs. Moore introduced Mr. Clay who spoke about his recent Union County military and local history displays at the Union County Public Library as well as Civil War and World War II Veterans displays at the Museum of the Waxhaws. Mr. Clay said that he will have a Veterans display at the Museum of the Waxhaws on June 7 in commemoration of the 70th anniversary of D-Day. Mrs. Moore said that she hopes we can locate other groups who will be interested placing exhibits in the Courthouse. Dr. Surratt asked Commission members if there were any questions for Mrs. Moore or Mr. Clay regarding this document. Mr. Dickerson made the motion to approve the Union County Historic Courthouse Loan Form which will be utilized when accepting exhibits.

Mrs. Crump seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous. Mrs. Gamble asked if a copy of the form should be sent to Mrs. Cindy Coto, Union County Manager, with a cover letter asking for permission to use rooms on the first floor of the Courthouse. Motion was made by Mr. Dickerson that a letter be sent to Mrs. Coto asking that the loan form be reviewed and that permission be given to place exhibits in rooms on the first floor of the historic Courthouse. Mrs. Crump seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous.

Dr. Surratt said that an Application has been filed by Ann Lewis for designating the property known as the former Methodist Parsonage, 406 W. Windsor Street, Monroe, NC, ca. 1886. He noted that it has been only 15 days since the Application was presented - not the prescribed 30 days. Dr. Surratt suggested that since regular meeting dates are scheduled every 3 months, the policy for filing an applications may need to be modified to enable us to discuss the application. Mrs. Moore made the motion to waive the policy with the 30 day requirement to enable us to discuss the Application. Mr. Dickerson seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous. Mr. Surratt read the property description, prepared by the owner, to the Commission members. The current occupant of the house, Mr. John Goss is leasing the property with an option to buy and is completing restoration at this time. Mrs. Gamble distributed a hand-out giving a brief history of the house and that of former owners. An evaluation, using a point system, was made by Commission members and the property exceeded the recommended forty points, making it worthy for proceeding with the designation procedure. Mrs. Crump made a motion to proceed with the designation process. Mr. Dickerson seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous. Mr. Paul Fromberg, Preservation Specialist, NC Archives and History, will be contacted to plan a visit to give an opinion about the significance of the property.

Dr. Surratt asked Mrs. Gamble to comment on the John Simpson House, ca. 1878, NW side of Holly School Road, Marshville, NC. Mrs. Gamble said that she sent a Designation Manual with a cover letter to Mr. and Mrs. Jimmy Godwin, the owners. Mrs. Gamble requested that they respond by May 1 and said that she was unable to contact them. The property is in a trust. Mrs. Moore reported that she had spoken with some members of Siler Church, ca. 1895, Weddington Road. She was told that the church is thinking about some additions to the church; so now may be a good time to approach them again about designating the property. Mrs. Gamble will contact the owner of the Jacob Allen Deal House, ca. 1909, Weddington Road, another County property that was voted to recommend for historic landmark designation.

Mrs. Gamble reported that she had spoken to James Kerr and he said that one of the rock houses on Concord Avenue had been bought and the new owner would like to designate it. Mr. Kerr has not yet responded to a phone call about the new owner's interest.

New Business

Dr. Surratt introduced Craig Fox, Union County Public Works, gave a report about proposed renovations at the historic Post Office. Mrs. Gamble had provided Mr. Fox with a photograph of the original front door of the building which he displayed for the Commission members along with a hand-out detailing the proposed renovations of door. He also presented a detailed sketch of the restored water fountain - one of which occupied a corner on the courthouse square. A Certificate of Appropriateness for the post office restoration will be presented after final plans are made. Mr. Fox said funding for building study is requested in the County budget. He added that he hopes to build up a "bank account" so restoration can

be done annually. Hopefully, the study of the building will be in next two months. Mr. Delk offered to help in any way.

Mrs. Bjorlin said that she hopes that the County Commissioners can soon give us approval for setting up an organization for a museum so that we can then apply for grants and organize a capital campaign.

Other Business

Mrs. Gamble gave the following reports:

Two display cabinets that have been discarded by the Union County Library have been designated for use here in the courthouse and will be delivered on Monday.

Jesse Dewart called from the City Planning Board wanting information about the Laney-Lee House, owned by the Episcopal Diocese, on the corner of Church and Windsor Streets. The Planning Board is working with Preservation North Carolina in an effort to save the house. Support of the Historic Preservation Commission was offered if needed.

Patrick and Ashley Fomen are the new owners of the John Efirm House, 408 Lancaster Avenue. Mrs. Fomen visited the Heritage Room to pick up the designation report on the house. Information about filing for tax deferment was explained to her.

Four classes from Union Academy toured the building on April 14 and 15. They visited the Heritage Room, hand-outs were given to the students and a brief "history lesson" was presented.

The meeting was adjourned. Dr. Surratt announced that the next regular meeting will be August 7, 2014.

Respectively submitted,

Dr. Jerry Surratt, Chairman