

**Minutes**  
**Union County Historic Preservation Commission**  
**April 6, 2010**

The Union County Historic Preservation Commission met at 3:30 on Tuesday, April 6, 2010 in the Heritage Room at the historic Union County Courthouse, Monroe, North Carolina.

Present: Virginia Bjorlin, Al Diehl, Sis Dillon, Jerry Surratt, Brad Hudson, Carolyn Funderburk, Margaret Bivens, Charles Williams, Danny Stegall

Also Present: Mary Lou Gamble

Mrs. Bjorlin remembered Emmy Lou Haywood and mentioned how much she will be missed. Mrs. Haywood served 12 years on the Historic Preservation Commission. Mrs. Gamble said that a monetary gift had been made to the Heritage Room to purchase a book in her memory.

Mrs. Bjorlin reported that Dale Loberger has been appointed as a new member on the commission from Monroe. Mr. Loberger has been active with the Monroe Historic District Commission and the Museum of the Waxhaws and will be formerly nominated by the Monroe City Council on April 12.

**Approval of Minutes**

The Historic Preservation Commission did not meet in February due to lack of a quorum and the meeting was cancelled in March due to inclement weather. Mrs. Bjorlin asked if there were any questions or comments regarding the January minutes. Mrs. Bivens motioned to approve the January 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 reports for January - March. Mrs. Gamble reported that a Budget Request for 2010 – 2011 was sent to the City of Monroe on January 14. The amount requested is \$14,000.00 – the same amount as last year. The City appropriated \$12,000.00 for 2009 – 2010. The Budget Request for 2010 – 2011, sent to Union County on March 31, is for \$12,450.00. Last year, \$9,000.00 was requested. The County appropriated \$8,100.00. Mrs. Gamble added that included in the request to the County was an estimate of \$3,300.00 to cover the cost of travel expense for commission members to attend preservation workshops recommended by North Carolina Archives . The reports were approved and will be filed with the minutes.

**Unfinished Business**

Mrs. Bjorlin noted that each commission member will find a list of historic properties and dates of designation included with today's handouts.

Concerning the Stallings Methodist Church, Mrs. Bjorlin noted that the Union County Legal Department has not decided whether the county will proceed with the designation or if it will be referred back to the Town of Stallings which now has a zoning board.

Mrs. Bjorlin said that at a recent Historical Society meeting a member of Wesley Chapel Parks and Recreation, Julie Brown, questioned her about the William Houston House which was to be burned by the Wesley Chapel Fire Department. Mrs. Brown was unaware that the house was to be destroyed. She is working with the Church of the Redeemer that owns the house and has a formal agreement with them that Wesley Chapel has permission to move the house to a proposed park on Highway 84.

Mrs. Bjorlin announced that the clock, circa 1790-1800, that was given by an anonymous donor who is a former resident of Monroe, has been repaired and is ready to be moved. The clock will be placed in the room across the hall where the Heritage Room will be moving. A tentative date for moving the clock is Friday, April 16.

Patricia Poland, Director of the Genealogy Room at the Union County Library, has requested the support of the Preservation Commission to place a monument, listing the names of ten black pensioners from Union County, near the existing Confederate monument. Mrs. Poland is currently scheduled to go before the Union County Commissioners on May 3 to ask permission to submit an Application of Certificate of Appropriateness to Historic Preservation Commission for consideration.

Mrs. Bjorlin distributed sketches and a picture of the proposed monument that Mrs. Poland had brought for commission members to review. Mrs. Bjorlin asked for comments from commission members about contacting each of the Union County Commissioners to explain the reservations that the commission has about placing another monument on the grounds of the historic courthouse. She noted the dimensions of the proposed monument

There are no names listed on the existing Confederate Monument – but the companies and regiments are listed – and as Dr. Surratt pointed out, memorializes *all* those who served without discrimination.

Mrs. Bjorlin suggested that a special Civil War Exhibit could be placed in the future museum recognizing these pensioners rather than placing a monument outside.

Mrs. Dillon pointed out that we do not need to add to the Confederate Monument – to leave it as is. She also added that she had spoken to one of the County Commissioners who expressed opposition to the idea.

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Dr. Surratt noted that if the commission approves this request, it would then be open for requests for other monuments. He feels that the commission needs to seek other ways to recognize these individuals, and that this is more of a departure from the past raising more questions than answers. Dr. Surratt suggested the commission should ask Mrs. Poland to schedule a presentation to the commission should the County Commissioners grant her permission to submit a Certificate of Appropriateness. He added that the commission could then ask her questions.

Mrs. Hudson motioned that contact be made by Mrs. Bjorlin to the County Commissioners to give some historical background and explain reservations that the Historic Preservation Commission has before Mrs. Poland's presentation. Mrs. Bivens seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Mrs. Bjorlin presented an Application of Certificate of Appropriateness submitted by Mr. and Mrs. Coefield Hilburn, owners of the Crow's Nest. The Hilburns wish to install a new sign at the entrance on the west driveway to draw attention to the historic property as well as their business. Commission members reviewed the site plan and drawing of the sign that the Hilburns had submitted. Dr. Surratt moved for approval of the request and Mr. Williams seconded the motion. All were in favor.

#### **New Business**

Mrs. Bjorlin said that the previous owners of the Monroe Hardware are reluctant to let the new owners of the Monroe Wholesale Hardware Building leave the name Monroe Hardware on the cornerstone.

No timetable has been set, but Mrs. Bjorlin said that the Heritage Room does plan to move to the four rooms across the hall.

On March 3, Dr. Hal Keiner, a Traveling Archivist, toured the Heritage Room and conducted a workshop for commission members and volunteers. He gave advice on preservation of our materials and commented favorably about many of the procedures that are used to file materials in the Heritage Room.

All commission members were given a brochure on parliamentary procedure to review and discuss at our next meeting.

Mrs. Bjorlin noted that some historic commissions charge for Certificate of Appropriateness and questioned whether we should do the same. Mrs. Gamble mentioned that Barbara Moore had mentioned that we could consider charging for designation reports and plaques. More discussion will be at a later date.

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Mr. Diehl will be sworn in as Chairman at our next meeting in May as will Dale Loberger. The members thanked Mrs. Bjorlin for her service on the commission. Election of a new Vice Chairman was tabled until a later date.

The meeting was adjourned.

The next meeting will be May 4.

Respectfully submitted,

Virginia Bjorlin  
Chairman

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