

**Minutes**  
**Union County Historic Preservation Commission**  
**17 June 2010**

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The Union County Historic Preservation Commission met at 3:30 on Wednesday, June 16, 2010 in the Heritage Room at the historic Union County Courthouse, Monroe, North Carolina.

Present: Al Diehl, Chairman; Dale Loberger, Sis Dillon, Carolyn Funderburk, Margaret Bivens

Absent: Dr. Jerry Surratt, Brad Hudson, Danny Stegall, Charles Williams

Also Present: Mary Lou Gamble, Virginia Bjorlin

The meeting was called to order by the Chairman, Al Diehl.  
A quorum was not present.

Mr. Diehl welcomed Dale Loberger who was recently appointed by the City of Monroe to fill Mrs. Bjorlin's expired term on the Commission.

Mr. Diehl stated that the purpose of the called meeting is to discuss recommendations that can be submitted to the Union County Commissioners regarding the adoption of a policy for the future use of the grounds surrounding the historic courthouse. He added that the designation includes the exterior and the interior of the building and grounds.

Before calling for discussion, Mr. Diehl made several comments.  
He said:

-that he surveyed the grounds before the meeting and there is no appropriate space to place additional monuments; it is the duty of the Historic Preservation Commission to preserve and protect historic properties and to not fill the grounds with all requested monuments, etc.

-that once a policy is adopted for use of the grounds, the Historic Preservation Commission should write a letter to the Union County Commissioners requesting approval for the use of additional rooms in the historic courthouse to set up exhibits, since funds for establishment of the Heritage Museum were frozen when the economy took a downturn.

-that the proposal for the Union County's Confederate Pensioners of Color Monument would not be affected by the adoption of a "future" policy.

-that he and Assistant County manager, Matthew Delk, had discussed the possibility of producing a film that would be shown on Channel 16; it would present the research that has been done about the proposed monument so that

the information would be presented to the citizens of the county. Also, a DVD could be produced to send to the schools.

Mr. Diehl called for discussion.

Mrs. Bjorlin said that, about ten years ago, she had written then County Manager, Mike Shalati, requesting that the county commissioners give some guidance as to what can be placed on this property. She emphasized that the names on all the monuments, including the fireman's monument, are deaths and 1,809 confederate soldiers are documented from Union County – 557 died and 467 were wounded. Some feel that these soldiers should be listed before those who received a pension. Mrs. Bjorlin proposed this wording – *Any future permanent additions such as monuments or plaques should list only the names of those who died in service for their country.* This would also cover the firemen. She mentioned not using the word *soldiers* – marines and sailors are not considered soldiers.

Mrs. Dillon suggested that all future recognitions be done in the proposed Heritage Museum. She said that exhibits could be made for each of the wars, listing those who died and a history of each war would be presented. She added that the Preservation Commission could possibly apply for a grant from the Union County Community Foundation.

Mrs. Gamble noted that the County adopted a Policy for Use of the Courtroom and the Interior of the historic courthouse on April 7, 2003. The City of Monroe also adopted a policy Defining the Use of City Land and Facilities in the Main Street Plaza area on November 2, 2004.

After more discussion, members agreed that the following recommendation be sent to the Union County Manager. “Due to the limited size and historic nature of the historic Union County Courthouse grounds, any future monuments would not be appropriate on this property.” The Preservation Commission would request, too, that the County manager ask the Union County Legal Department to write a document that can be submitted to the Union County Commissioners for adoption.

The above recommendation will be presented at the next meeting of the Union County Historic Preservation Commission to consider the question again since a quorum was not present at this meeting.

The next meeting will be held on July 13 at 3:30 in the Heritage Room.

Respectfully submitted,

Al Diehl, Chairman

June 16, 2010