

**Minutes
Union County Historic Preservation Commission
4 January 2011**

The Union County Historic Preservation Commission met at 3:30 p.m. on Tuesday, January 4, 2011, in the Heritage Room at the historic Union County Courthouse, Monroe, North Carolina.

Present: Virginia Bjorlin, Sis Dillon, Crystal Crump, Dr. Jerry Surratt, Brad Hudson, Carolyn Funderburk, Dale Loberger

Absent: Jane Ellickson, Danny Stegall, Charles Williams

Also Present: Mary Lou Gamble, Harriett Moore, Mandy Vari–City of Monroe Planning Department, Kyle Kirby

Mrs. Bjorlin announced that the first order of business is to nominate a new Chairman and that the floor was open for nominations for Chairman. Dr. Jerry Surratt offered to take the position. Mr. Loberger seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous and Dr. Surratt will take the position at the next meeting in February. Mrs. Bjorlin said that the Vice Chairman and Secretary-Treasurer will be elected at a later date.

Approval of Minutes

Mrs. Bjorlin asked if there were any comments or questions regarding the November minutes. Mrs. Hudson made a motion to approve the minutes. Mrs. Funderburk seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous.

Mrs. Bjorlin asked the members to refer to the revised pages for the Designation Process and the Procedures for Submitting an Application of Certificate of Appropriateness. These revised pages should replace the ones currently in the Procedures Manual.

Financial Report

Mrs. Bjorlin asked if there were any questions regarding the financial statement. The financial report was approved and filed.

Report of Committees

Mrs. Bjorlin introduced Dale Loberger and Crystal Crump as the new members of the Historic Preservation Commission. Mr. Loberger was appointed by the City of Monroe to fill Mrs. Bjorlin's term which expired in April 2010 and Ms. Crump was appointed by the Union County Commissioners to replace Mr. Al Diehl who resigned in October because of his wife's illness. Mr. Loberger and Ms. Crump were presented notebooks containing pertinent information about Procedures followed by the Historic Preservation Commission in executing its duties.

Unfinished Business

Mrs. Bjorlin reported that the designation process of the Charles Iceman House, 900 W. Franklin Street, circa 1911 is underway and she is preparing the Historical Sketch for the Survey and Research Report. Macon and Rhonda Griffin are the owners of the house. Mrs. Bjorlin is uncertain if Mr. Sidney Halma, Architectural Historian, has been to Monroe to prepare the Architectural Description for the report.

Consideration of Applications

Mrs. Bjorlin asked for discussion about the designation of the Unionville Methodist Church circa 1905, located in downtown Unionville and owned by the Unionville Baptist Church. She noted that the exterior of the property has been altered with the addition of vinyl siding and the concern is whether this will affect the historic significance of the property. The siding was added because painting the building was so expensive. Mrs. Bjorlin read the fax from Paul Fromberg, Senior Preservation Specialist, NC Archives, regarding his findings after visiting Unionville Methodist Church. Mr. Fromberg ended his comments by saying that designation should be left up to the commission. Questions were raised as to whether or not to designate the church and to consider the vinyl siding as protection for the original wood on the building. Another consideration would be whether designation could protect the building from future sale for other purposes. Mrs. Bjorlin asked if a letter should be written to the church officials asking why they want the property designated and if they would consider removing the vinyl siding. After discussing whether or not removing the vinyl siding would be feasible, Mrs. Hudson made a motion that the owners, Unionville Baptist Church, should be contacted regarding the reasons for applying for designation of the historic landmark. Dr. Surratt seconded the motion. The majority vote was in favor of contacting Unionville Baptist Church for more information.

New Business

No timetable yet for moving. We are still waiting on county for shelving.

Next meeting February 1, 2011

Respectfully submitted,

Virginia Bjorlin, Acting Chairman
Dr. Jerry Surratt, Chairman

January 4, 2011