

Minutes
Union County Historic Preservation Commission
1 September 2011

The Union County Historic Preservation Commission met at 1:30 pm on Thursday, September 1, 2011 in the Heritage Room at the historic Union County Courthouse, Monroe, North Carolina.

Present: Dr. Jerry Surratt, Sis Dillon, Crystal Crump, Dale Loberger,
Jane Ellickson, John Dickerson

Absent: Brad Hudson, Danny Stegall

Also Present: Virginia Bjorlin, Mary Lou Gamble, Harriett Moore

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

Approval of Minutes

Dr. Surratt asked if there were any corrections or additions regarding the minutes of the August meeting. Mr. Dickerson motioned to approve the August minutes. Mr. Loberger seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous.

Financial Report

Dr. Surratt asked for any comments concerning the financial report. Mrs. Gamble commented that the City of Monroe has now imposed a fee of \$75.00 for processing designations. For future designations, the property owner will be informed about this fee. The financial statement was accepted and approved.

Report of Committees

No reports at this time.

Unfinished Business

Dr. Surratt asked about Sidney Halma's visit to see the Unionville Methodist Church, 4799 Unionville Road, Monroe, NC. Mrs. Bjorlin reported that Mr. Halma was very pleased with the property and how well it has been preserved. Mrs. Gamble reported that a letter has been sent to Mr. Hank Parker, Pastor, informing him that the Commission voted to proceed with preparation of a Survey and Research Report for recommending designation of the building "as is" as an Historic Landmark. Also, a request was made that the church be responsible for one half of the expenses (\$250.00) of the report. There has been no response. Mrs. Gamble will call to be sure the letter was received and ask for their decision before proceeding. If the church declines the request, the commission will reconsider the application.

Dr. Surratt asked for a report about the status of the designation of the Charles Iceman House, 900 West Franklin Street, Monroe, NC. Mrs. Gamble said that the City of Monroe has not yet scheduled a public hearing.

Consideration of Applications

Dr. Surratt briefly reviewed the material that Paulette Kerr presented at the August meeting with the Application for Designation of Kerr Farms, 9616 Joe Kerr Road, Waxhaw, NC. The Commission members were provided evaluation forms. Using the point system, commission

members assigned points for each category after discussing the historic significance of the property for each. A total of 45 points was assigned for the evaluation. Mr. Loberger motioned to proceed with the designation. Mr. Dickerson seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous. A letter will be sent to the owner, Paulette Kerr, informing her that the designation was approved and make a request that she pay half of the fee for preparation of the Survey and Research Report. Mrs. Dillon motioned that Sidney Halma be asked to do the report. Mrs. Ellickson seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous.

New Business

Mrs. Gamble noted that in the past, the Commission has paid one half of the cost of historic plaques that homeowner's have requested once the property is designated. Discussion was held about asking the property owner to pay the full price in the future. An estimate of the cost of plaques is \$250.

Dr. Surratt reported that he, Mrs. Bjorlin and Sidney Halma met with Cynthia Coto, County Manager, to discuss the status of establishing a museum in the historic courthouse. Barry Wyatt, Director of General Services, was also in attendance. Dr. Surratt said they briefed Ms. Coto on the history of establishing the museum – that there had been a search for an advisory firm to do a feasibility study with the funds of \$50,000 appropriated by the Union County Board of Commissioners. The funds were frozen with the economic downturn. Mr. Halma suggested that we proceed to create a partnership with the City of Monroe and Union County, the Union County Historic Preservation Commission, and the Union County Historical Society (who has a 501-3C) to move ahead with project when we could. Dr. Surratt suggested proceeding with a Capital Campaign when the County Commissioners give approval. Ms. Coto said she would present this to the County Commissioners and try to get an idea of their feelings at the October meeting. After hearing from the County Commissioners there would be another meeting. Then a presentation could be made to the officials with the City of Monroe. Perhaps a tie to the Monroe Visitor's Bureau could be made. Mr. Halma suggested establishing a museum segment by segment. A part-time professional, and working staff would be needed. Mr. Halma felt very positive about the meeting and is acquainted with someone who does capital campaigns and he and Mr. Halma will visit free of charge.

Mrs. Gamble said the owner of the Wood House on Parker Street has inquired about designating the house. She gave him a "Procedures for Designation" manual which includes an Application for Designation. He has not responded.

Adjournment

The next meeting will be planned for October 5th at 1:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. Jerry Surratt, Chairman