

**Union County Historic Preservation Commission**  
**Minutes Regular Meeting**  
**August 2, 2012**

The Union County Historic Preservation Commission met at 1:30 pm on Thursday, August 2, 2012, in the Heritage Room in the historic Union County Courthouse, 300 N. Main Street, Monroe, North Carolina.

Present: Dr. Jerry Surratt, Brad Hudson, Dale Loberger, Sis Dillon, John Dickerson,  
Crystal Crump, Jane Ellickson, Danny Stegall  
Also Present: Mary Lou Gamble, Harriett Moore, staff; Matthew Delk, Assistant Manager Union County;  
Adam Bell, Charlotte Observer; Amanda Reid, Administrator, Town of Marshville;  
Jerry Austin, Laura Stallard, Jack Clay, Worth Barbee, Tony Way

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

**Approval of Minutes**

Dr. Surratt stated that the first item of business is to consider approval of the minutes of the June 7, 2012 meeting. Dr. Surratt asked if there were any corrections or additions to the minutes of the June meeting. Mrs. Ellickson moved to approve the minutes. Mrs. Hudson seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

**Financial Report**

Dr. Surratt asked if there were any comments or questions concerning the financial report. Mrs. Gamble said that she had contacted the Finance Departments for the City of Monroe and Union County. For the Historic Preservation Commission's 2012-2013, the County has approved \$7,849.00, an increase of 2 percent; the City of Monroe has approved \$12,000.00. The Annual Report has been submitted to the four municipalities who have adopted the Ordinance: Monroe, Union County, Marshville, and Wingate. The Annual Report was reviewed by the Commission members. There were no further comments and the financial report was accepted by the Commission members.

Dr. Surratt noted that no one has been appointed to the Commission by the Town of Wingate to fill the expired term of Charles Williams. He will pursue that further.

**Applications for Historic Landmark Designation**

The Kerr Farm, 9616 Joe Kerr Road, Waxhaw, NC, owner is Paulette Kerr. Mrs. Gamble reported that Ben Isley from the County Legal Department called to say that the Town of Marvin had authorized Union County to proceed with the designation procedure. The County Legal Department will prepare the Ordinance and then schedule a public hearing.

The Neese Apartments, 104 E. Windsor Street, Monroe, NC, circa 1945-46; owner James Kerr. The Application for Designation was received April 11, 2012, and the Commission voted at the June meeting to proceed with the designation. Bids were received from two architectural historians for preparation of the Survey and Research Report. Jason Harpe submitted a bid of \$2,000.00; Sydney Halma's bid was \$300-\$500. Mr. Kerr, the owner, will pay one-half of the cost. Mr. Stegall made the motion to accept Mr. Halma's quote and authorize him to prepare the report. Mrs. Crump seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

Dr. Surratt referred to the Application for Designation for Unionville Methodist Church, 4700 Unionville, Road, Unionville, NC, owned by Unionville Baptist Church. At the August 4, 2011 meeting, the Commission voted to proceed with the designation after the evaluation was made. Sydney Halma prepared the Survey and Research Report before the church reported that it could not pay one-half of the cost for the report. Commission members discussed the situation at length. Dr. Surratt asked if the Commission

might make this request an exception since the church receives no tax benefits. Mr. Dickerson made a motion that the Commission pay the entire fee for preparation of the Survey and Research Report for the Unionville Methodist Church and proceed with the designation process. Mr. Loberger seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous.

#### OTHER BUSINESS

Dr. Surratt announced that Preservation North Carolina's Annual Conference will be held September 19 - 21 in Asheville, NC. He said should anyone be interested in going, information is available.

#### APPLICATION FOR CERTIFICATE OF APPROPRIATENESS

Dr. Surratt opened discussion of the marker to be placed at the Union County Historic Courthouse Plaza, 300 N. Main Street, Monroe, NC, owned by the Union County Government. A mock-up of the marker has been received and the mock-up was displayed for the Commission members to view. Dr. Surratt explained that this marker will be placed in the sidewalk, replacing the bricks in front of the existing Confederate Monument on the west side of the courthouse. The size of the mock-up is 4' x 2'4" which General Services proposes will fit in the space where pavers are removed. Dr. Surratt said that the stone would be blue granite which is consistent with the existing marker. The font size of the print was discussed between Mr. Clay and Commission members. Dr. Surratt questioned whether or not it had been decided to eliminate the bottom line "At Time of Death, Last Surviving Male Pensioner in the County" referring to Ned Byrd. Dr. Surratt suggested that that space be used to indicate that Jeff Sanders was "a freedman". On the original application, Jeff Sander's name included (free person of color). It was suggested that Mr. Byrd's biography as well as each individual pensioner's history be preserved in a future museum. Mr. Delk said that the County recognizes that the Preservation Commission has the final say on matters of construction at the historic courthouse and will be satisfied with any decision made concerning the statements, as long as the original intent is satisfied and what was asked for is still on the monument. Mr. Loberger said that it is his opinion that the statement concerning Jeff Sanders is a more pertinent piece of information for placement on the marker. Dr. Surratt and other Commission members discussed with Mr. Clay the significance of each statement in question. Mr. Dickerson made a motion to approve the marker as presented in the mock-up with the deletion of the last sentence "At Time of Death, Last Surviving Male Pensioner in the County" and as a modification, add note clarifying "Jeff Sanders as a "free person of color". Mr. Loberger seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

Mr. Delk spoke of the upgrading of the Union County website at [www.co.union.nc.us](http://www.co.union.nc.us) and invited the Commission members to visit the website.

Dr. Surratt invited everyone to go outside and use the mock-up to see where the memorial will be placed on the walkway.

The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for September 6 at 1:30.

Respectively submitted,

  
Jerry Surratt, Ph. D. *Chairman*