

**Minutes**  
**Union County Historic Preservation Commission**  
**5 April 2012**

The Union County Historic Preservation Commission met at 1:30 pm on Thursday, April 5, 2012, in the Heritage Room at the historic Union County Courthouse, Monroe, North Carolina.

Present: Dr. Jerry Surratt, Brad Hudson, Dale Loberger, Sis Dillon, John Dickerson, Crystal Crump

Absent: Jane Ellickson, Charles Williams, Danny Stegall

Also Present: Matthew Delk, Assistant Union County Manager; Virginia Bjorlin, Union County Historical Society; Mary Lou Gamble, Harriett Moore, Heather Smith, Phillip Woods, Tony Way

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

Dr. Surratt recognized guests present at the meeting.

**Approval of Minutes**

Dr. Surratt asked if there were any corrections or additions to the minutes of the March meeting. Mr. Loberger 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. There were no questions and the financial report was approved by the Commission members.

**Unfinished Business**

Dr. Surratt said that he had talked to Dr. Robert Billinger, Chairman of the History Department at Wingate University and at this time there are no students who would be available for an internship this summer. Dr. Surratt suggested that we should wait until the fall or possibly the next summer so that the project can be well organized. Mr. Delk agreed with Dr. Surratt's suggestion and added that a history student at Wingate might be available at that time. Dr. Surratt said that he has spoken with Mrs. Bjorlin, President of the Historical Society and Barbara Moore, President of the Carolinas Genealogical Society and there is support from all organizations to proceed.

**Applications for Designation**

Dr. Surratt said that the Kerr Farm designation is currently on hold. The Village of Marvin is holding a public hearing on April 16. Lisa Thompson, Marvin's Town Planner, has indicated that the Town Council will draw a resolution that will request that the Union County Board of Commissioners represent Marvin in the designation procedure.

Dr. Surratt said that a second letter has been sent to the owners of the stone houses on Concord Avenue requesting that they consider meeting with a representative from the Preservation Commission to discuss designation of their homes. No response has been received. Mr. Dickerson said he would try to stop by and speak to the residents.

Dr. Surratt reported that the designation of the C. C. Stokes House, circa 1919, located at 903 West Franklin Street, Monroe, NC is still pending. Mrs. Gamble reported that Gail Russell, owner of the house, is anxious to proceed. Dr. Surratt asked Mrs. Gamble to contact Paul Fromberg, Senior Preservation Specialist, NC Archives to schedule a visit to give an opinion about the historical significance of the property.

### **Application of Certificate of Appropriateness**

The owners, Phil and Patty Woods, of the Marsh-Baucom House, located at 318 N. Elm Street, Marshville, NC, submitted an Application of Certificate of Appropriateness for replacing the roof which is leaking due to storm damage. The Woods provided a sample of the shingles to be used. Mr. Dickerson made a motion to approve the Application of Certificate of Appropriateness. Mrs. Dillon seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous. Mr. Woods was given the approved application and a letter confirming the approval will be sent to Mr. and Mrs. Woods.

Dr. Surratt said that an Application of Certificate of Appropriateness has been received from the Union County Government to place a monument for Union County's Confederate Pensioners of Color on the historic Union County Historic Courthouse grounds. Dr. Surratt asked that a motion be made to call for a public hearing on Thursday May 3, 2012, at 1:30 pm at the regular meeting time of the Union County Historic Preservation Commission. Mr. Delk noted that the courtroom in the historic Union County Courthouse will possibly be in use that day for other activities. Mr. Delk said he will help find a venue. Mr. Dickerson made the motion that public hearing be scheduled for Thursday, May 3, 2012 at 1:30 pm at a venue to be determined. Mrs. Crump seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

Dr. Surratt noted that in accordance with the Ordinance creating the Union County Historic Preservation Commission, adjoining property owners will be notified at least 10 days before the regular meeting on May 3 when the public hearing will be held to hear the application. The notice will be published in the newspaper two times at least ten days before the public hearing.

Mandates of the Ordinance, pages 9 and 10, were provided to each Commission member as well as a copy of the Application of Certificate of Appropriateness. Dr. Surratt said that the issue of the monument had been reviewed two years ago when the Preservation Commission was asked by the Board of Union County Commissioners for a recommendation. No Application of Certificate of Appropriateness has been filed previously. At the meeting of the Union County Board of Commissioners on March 19, 2012, Commissioners voted 3 - 2 to submit an Application of Certificate of Appropriateness based on the 2010 proposal presented by a group of interested citizens in order to start the procedure as outlined in the Ordinance creating the Union County Historic Preservation Commission for consideration of the Application. Dr. Surratt mentioned that the March 19 meeting can be viewed on the Union County website should anyone be interested in the discussion.

Mr. Way offered to provide the comments that he made during the March 19 meeting, but Dr. Surratt said that all comments should to be reserved for the public hearing when anyone can speak either for or against the monument. The Preservation Commission will then make a decision as stated in the Ordinance to approve the Application as presented, approve with it modifications, or deny the Application. Dr. Surratt asked the Commission members to take time to review statutes listed in the Ordinance and to take into account the criteria for considering the Application of Certificate of Appropriateness before the public hearing next month.

Mr. Delk pointed out that there have been some changes made in the proposal for the monument as it was presented in 2010 such as the size - originally was 4' x 2'. The plan has been modified to fit landscaping, brick pavers, and steps. He added that the Secretary of Interiors Standards for Rehabilitation were referenced in preparing the Application. Dr. Surratt reminded Commission Members that according to the Ordinance, a vote to consider this application must be made within 60 days after it is filed. Should a decision not be made on May 3, a called meeting would be held. Mrs. Bjorlin said that in the past the Commission has asked for guidance from the Union County Commissioners on what would be appropriate to place on the grounds of the historic Union County Courthouse. Mr. Delk stated that the Union County Commissioners did not vote on the proposal that was presented in 2010 by the group requesting the placement of the monument for the Confederate Pensioners of Color. Mr. Delk said that the Commissioners did take into account the policy for monuments and that a decision would be made at the appropriate time. He added that the recommendations presented by the Historic Preservation Commission was taken into consideration and appreciated.

Dr. Surratt assured the guests representing the monument proposal that the Commission will move toward a reasonable time, and reach a responsible conclusion.

### **New Business**

Mr. Delk said the television production to be filmed in the courthouse will begin at the end of April.

### **Other Business**

The meeting was adjourned.

The next meeting is scheduled for May 3, 2012 at 1:30.

Respectively submitted,

Dr. Jerry Surratt, Chairman