

Union County Historic Preservation Commission
Minutes Regular Meeting
May 2, 2013

The Union County Historic Preservation Commission met at 1:30 pm on Thursday, May 2, 2013, in the Heritage Room in the historic Union County Courthouse, 300 N. Main Street, Monroe, North Carolina.

Present: Dr. Jerry Surratt, Jane Ellickson, John Dickerson, Crystal Crump,
Brad Hudson, Dale Loberger,
Absent: Sis Dillon, Danny Stegall
Also Present: Mary Lou Gamble, Staff; Virginia Bjorlin,
Matthew Delk, Assistant Manager Union County

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 would be to approve the minutes of the March 7, 2013 regular meeting. Dr. Surratt asked if there were any corrections or additions to the minutes of the December meeting. Mrs. Crump moved to approve the minutes. Mr. Loberger seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

Financial Report

Dr. Surratt asked if there were any comments or questions concerning the financial report for March and April. Dr. Surratt said that there is a public hearing scheduled on May 7, for the presentation of the 2013-2014 budget for the City of Monroe at the Monroe City Council meeting. Mrs. Gamble said that she had contacted Amy Austin at the City Finance Office and was told that the City has appropriated \$12,000 for the 2013-2014 for the Historic Preservation Commission budget. Dr. Surratt noted that a letter had been sent to the Town of Marshville and Town of Wingate asking each for a contribution of \$500. Marshville responded with a detailed form. The actual date for submitting the request had expired so we will pursue the request next year. Wingate did not respond. There were no further comments and the financial report was accepted by the Commission members.

Application for Historic Landmark Designation

Neese Apartments, 104 East Windsor Street, Monroe NC, James Kerr, owner. Dr. Surratt said that the Survey and Research Report is complete and a motion is needed to request that the City of Monroe schedule a Public Hearing so that the Historic Preservation Commission can recommend the Neese Apartments be designated an "Historic Landmark". Mr. Dickerson noted that Mrs. Gamble had asked him to make a statement about the significance of the Neese Apartment building. He read the statement to the Commission members. A copy will be given to Dr. Surratt to present at the Public Hearing. Mrs. Gamble added that she and Mr. Kerr had selected the interior doors, the staircases, and the brass mailboxes as part of the designation. Mr. Dickerson made a motion that the Survey and Research Report for the Neese Apartments and all supporting information be sent to the City of Monroe with a request that the Monroe City Council schedule a joint public hearing with the Union County Historic Preservation Commission. Mr. Loberger seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous.

Other Business

Dr. Surratt stated that the request to the Union County Board of Commissioners to hire an intern to work in the Heritage Room was denied. It was suggested that we use volunteers. Dr. Surratt has spoken to Wingate University and they may have some students willing to work without compensation, but will be able to receive academic credit. Dr. Bob Billinger, Chairman of the History Department, is helping to formulate a plan. Mr. Surratt thanked Mr. Delk for his presentation to the Union County Board of Commissioners. Mr. Delk offered assistance in the establishment of a virtual museum on the upgraded County website and perhaps provide a computer station. Mrs. Gamble stated that a Wingate University student who visited seemed very interested and perhaps she could volunteer as an intern this summer.

Mrs. Gamble mentioned that she had visited the owners of the O. P. Heath House, Pat and Kenya Turner. They have completely restored the interior of the house and the grounds and are very interested in preservation.

Dr. Surratt said that there is still an offer from Jack Clay to place a temporary historical exhibit of his collection of WWII and Camp Sutton artifacts for display in two rooms in the historic courthouse. Dr. Surratt and Mr. Delk discussed how to insure and protect the displays. In order to move forward, Mr. Delk needs a written proposal from Carolinas Genealogical Society, the Union County Historical Society, the Union County Historic Preservation Commission and Jack Clay to present to Mrs. Cynthia Coto, Union County Manager and the insurance company. The letter should list items to be displayed and an arrangement with Jack Clay to be present when display is open to public.

Mrs. Crump mentioned that she had visited the Marshville Museum and an invitation was made by a Museum Director for the Union County Historic Preservation Commission to plan a future meeting there.

The next meeting is scheduled for June 6, 2013.

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectively submitted,

Jerry Surratt, Ph.D.
Chairman

After the meeting adjourned, Dr. Surratt, Mrs. Crump, Mrs. Hudson, Harriett Moore, and Mary Lou Gamble visited the Kerr Family Farm in Marvin. The Farm has recently been designated as an "Historic Landmark". The owner, Paulette Kerr, was a most gracious hostess and gave her guests an interesting tour of the house. She explained how additions were added to the original structure through the early 1900's and described some of the architectural features, various paintings, furniture and interior features such as a pine mantle in the dining room.