

Union County Historic Preservation Commission
Regular Meeting
November 6, 2014

The Union County Historic Preservation Commission held a meeting on Thursday, November 6, 2014, at 1:30 pm in the Heritage Room located in the historic Union County Courthouse, Monroe, North Carolina.

Present: Dr. Jerry Surratt, Crystal Crump, John Dickerson, Melvin Faris, Dale Loberger, Steven Long, Barbara Moore,
Absent: Jane Ellickson
Also Present: Mary Lou Gamble, Staff; Virginia Bjorlin

The meeting was called to order by Dr. Jerry Surratt, Chairman. He asked if there were any changes in the Agenda. There were none.

Approval of Minutes

Dr. Surratt asked if there were additions or corrections to the minutes of the July 17, 2014 meeting. There were none. Mrs. Moore made a motion that the minutes be approved. Mr. Long seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous.

Financial Report

The financial report was presented. Mrs. Gamble noted that the appropriation from Union County for the fourth quarter 2013-2014 has been received and appropriations from the City of Monroe and Union County for the first quarter of the 2014-2015 budget have been received. The financial report was approved.

Old Business

Dr. Surratt presented a photograph of the restored entrance doors at the historic Old Post Office, 407 North Main Street, Monroe, NC. Commission members expressed great pleasure in seeing the completed renovation. Dr. Surratt suggested that a resolution be adopted by the commission to commend Mr. Craig Fox and his staff for planning and executing the renovation. Mr. Dickerson made a motion that a resolution, to this effect, be adopted and sent to Mr. Fox. Mrs. Moore seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous.

Resolution

WHEREAS, the Union County Historic Preservation Commission has the responsibility and privilege of reviewing and approving renovations to those buildings in Union County which is has declared to be historic landmarks; and

WHEREAS, historic buildings are a legacy to be maintained in such a manner that the integrity of the building is preserved for usage by future generation;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Union County Historic Preservation Commission extends its appreciation to Union County's Facilities Director Craig R. Fox and his staff for its meticulous planning and executing of said plan in the restoration of the exterior doors of the historic Union County Post Office, 407 N. Main Street, Monroe, North Carolina.

Adopted this 6th day of November 2014 by unanimous vote of the Union County Historic Preservation Commission.

Dr. Surratt asked Mrs. Bjorlin to give a report about the status of the proposed museum in the historic Union County Courthouse. Mrs. Bjorlin said that the Union County Historical Society contacted County Manager Cindy Coto in September requesting that the County Commissioners form a museum organization. This would allow the Historical Society to apply for grants and have a capital campaign. The Society thinks that the money required for start-up costs can be raised. Mrs. Coto replied in October that the Commissioners had a planning session, and the subject was discussed. The consensus was to wait until the study of the historic courthouse was completed before forming a museum organization. She noted that when she met with Craig Fox in December of 2013, he planned to write up the information for bids for the study early this year. But he has had more responsibilities assigned to him and has not yet done that - so bids have not been taken and the timing for the study is obviously delayed. Therefore, the future of a museum organization is still uncertain as to timing. Our impression is that the County Commission looks favorably on the idea of a museum.

New Business

Dr. Surratt asked members to refer to the "Suggested Properties Considered for Recommendation" study list.

He noted that he contacted Mr. and Mrs. Matt DeForrest, owners of the Heath-Williamson-Neal House, 601 South Church Street, Monroe, NC and gave them a "Designation Procedures" Manual. This property was voted to recommend for designation at the February meeting. It is also in the South Monroe Historic District so guidelines are comparable for this commission and the Monroe Historic District Commission. Dr. Surratt noted that the DeForrests seem receptive to individual designation of the property.

After some discussion, the following properties were approved for designation. The owners will be contacted to inquire about interest in designation.

1. The Payne-Vann-Hamilton House, 503 South Washington Street, Monroe, NC, 28112; owner, Dale Loberger.
2. The Sam Hinson House, 3918 East Highway 74, Wingate, NC 28174; owned by the Jesse Helms Foundation; is being leased for Wingate Town Hall.
3. The Arts Council Building, 102 North Main Street, Monroe, NC 28112; owned by the City of Monroe.
4. The Nealie-Belk-Stevens House, 207 West Houston Street, Monroe, NC 28112.

Mrs. Bjorlin noted that she has been told that a house on Rocky River Road, that was once a school, might be worthy of consideration for designation.

Mrs. Crump volunteered to research the ownership of the Houston Street House and the one on Rocky River Road.

Mrs. Gamble suggested that ownership of some of the individually designated properties needs to be verified since some have been sold. Mrs. Crump volunteered to research the ownership of any properties that are in questions. Mrs. Gamble added that all owners should have a copy of the designation report and information for filing a Certificate of Appropriateness.

Other Business

Mrs. Gamble reported on the following topics.

Old Methodist Parsonage - Survey and Research Report was mailed to Archives on October 20. Rob Crawford is not longer there. In conversation with Michelle McKay, a staff person at Archives, she

was asked if the report could be reviewed as soon as possible. A request will be to the City of Monroe schedule a public hearing - hopefully before the end of the year.

Laney-Lee House - Several articles have been in the papers recently. In speaking with Jesse Dewort with the City Planning Department for an update. He said that the City and the Monroe Historic Preservation Commission met with Preservation NC in August, and the meeting went well. A presentation was made to Monroe City Council last Tuesday night. (Can go on line for a 20 minutes video - couldn't receive it at the Heritage Room). Jesse said that the house would have to be divided into eight sections to move it and it would cost \$300,000. There would be additional cost to reassemble it.

Your Town Models - Dean Glenn, Craig Fox's assistant, moved them to this building sometime in early September.

Myers Smith House - Richard Ali is the owner. He called for information about placing a satellite dish on his house; was told that the reception would be best if placed in the front. He had contacted the Monroe Historic District Commission. He was told that he would have to file a Certificate of Appropriateness with both commissions. Satellite dishes are not addressed in the Guidelines. Should a policy be addressed? He was given a copy of the Designation Report for his property and information for filing a Certificate of Appropriateness.

The meeting was adjourned. The next regular meeting will be in February.

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. Jerry Surratt, Chairman