

Minutes
Union County Historic Preservation Commission
July 7, 2009

The Union County Historic Preservation Commission met at 3:30 on Tuesday, July 7, 2009 in the Heritage Room at the historic Union County Courthouse, Monroe, North Carolina.

Present: Virginia Bjorlin, Chairman; Al Diehl, Vice Chairman; Emmy Lou Haywood, Secretary; John Dickerson, Treasurer; Margaret Bivens, Sis Dillon, Danny Stegall

Also Present: Mary Lou Gamble, Harriett Moore, Brian Borne

Absent: Carolyn Funderburk, Brad Hudson, Charles Williams

Approval of Minutes

Mrs. Bjorlin asked if there were any corrections or additions to the June minutes. Mrs. Haywood made the motion to approve the June minutes. Mr. Dickerson seconded the motion and the minutes were approved unanimously as written.

Financial Report

The monthly report was reviewed. Mrs. Gamble reported we have submitted our request to Union County for the 4th quarter appropriation. The city has appropriated \$12,000 for next year's budget and the county has appropriated \$8,100; \$800 less than last year. The report was accepted and will be filed with the minutes.

Unfinished Business

Mrs. Bjorlin reported that Courtney Richie, Union County Legal Dept., asked for larger pictures concerning the designation of the The Hamilton-Marsh House, 1113 Highway 205, Marshville, NC. Jeffrey Crook, County Attorney, implied to Mrs. Bjorlin that he was satisfied with the Survey and Research Report and was ready to set the public hearing. Jason Harpe, who did the designation report, has sent more pictures via CD that we have printed and labeled to resubmit to the Legal Department. Hopefully, the public hearing will be set as soon as possible.

Mrs. Bjorlin asked that the commission members review the History of the Historic Preservation Commission given out at the June meeting. A discussion will be held at a future meeting.

Mrs. Bjorlin said the Stallings United Methodist Church has been approved for designation. Sidney Halma came June 23 and visited the church with Mrs. Bjorlin and Mrs. Dillon. He will be preparing the architectural description for the Survey and Research Report.

New Business

Mrs. Bjorlin also discussed the Time capsule at the Confederate Monument with Mr. Halma. Parker Mills, county commissioner, had learned of the time capsule placed at the monument on July 4, 1910 – to be opened 100 years later – July 4, 2010. The capsule had been opened in 1975 when the UDC had the monument cleaned. The 1975 Monroe Enquirer report on the time capsule stated that the original 1910 container fell apart when it was removed. They found confederate money and 1910 newspapers and put these items in a plastic bag sealed with tape back into the space. When the capsule was removed by Mr. Halma, moisture had penetrated the bag, and the contents were damaged. Keith Corporation workers have constructed a PVC pipe for the container to be used to plant another time capsule in 2010.

Mrs. Bjorlin will be asking for suggestions of items to be placed in the capsule.

Mrs. Bjorlin attended the County Commissioners meeting on June 22 to state that the Historic Preservation Commission will not recommend the Disabled American Veterans proposal to sell and place pavers on the walkways around the historic courthouse as a fundraising project.

Mrs. Bjorlin would like to recommend to the County Commissioners that there be no more monuments permitted on the historic courthouse grounds. She will request advice from the legal department before presenting this to the County Commissioners. Mrs. Dillon mentioned soldiers killed in recent wars and whether a memorial should be allowed for them. Also, all functions on the grounds should be approved by the County. A copy of the policy for using the courthouse was faxed regarding functions allowed inside the courthouse. Mr. Borne suggested that the Preservation Commission prepare guidelines and rules outlining what can and cannot be permitted on the grounds. Mrs. Gamble made a copy of the Resolution of Policies that the City of Monroe has adopted for The Plaza area in front of the Government Center. Mr. Bourne provided the information and agreed to find some precedent for the guidelines.

Mrs. Bjorlin reported that she was not sure how far along the new Waxhaw Historic Commission was with setting up their Rules of Procedure, etc. There are to be seven members on the commission. Alda Cassidy, our commission's contact with the Preservation Office in Raleigh, advised Mrs. Bjorlin to turn over the four designated properties in Waxhaw to the new commission. These properties are the Heath Building (2), the Railroad Bridge, and the R. J. Belk Building. The Town Manager of Waxhaw is going to set up a meeting with Mrs. Bjorlin and the Waxhaw Planning Board.

Mrs. Bjorlin said that there will not be an August meeting unless notified otherwise. The next meeting will be September 1, 2009 at 3:30 p.m. in The Heritage Room.

Adjournment

Respectfully submitted,

Virginia Bjorlin
Chairman