

JACKSON COUNTY HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

MINUTES

Date: May 17, 2022								
Time Begin: 5:16 pm								
Time End: 6:17 pm								
Location: Jackson County Public Library, Conference Room								
Members	Present	Absent		Present	Absent		Present	Absent
Susan Leveille	X		Jane Eastman		X	Beth Parris	X	
Bill Crawford	X		Luther Jones	X		Vacant		
Brandon Core	X		Pam Meister	X				
Celeste Pratt	X		Carl Iobst		X			

Others Present:

Anna Harkins, Planner I
 Allison Kelley, Administrative Assistant III

Call to Order and Quorum Check

Chair Susan Leveille called the meeting to order at 5:16 p.m. and a quorum was present.

Approval of the Agenda

Luther Jones made a motion to approve the agenda as written. Bill Crawford seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

Approval of the Minutes

Luther Jones made a motion to approve the minutes from June 15, July 20, August 26, and September 16, 2021. Pam Meister seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

Public Comment (3 minutes per speaker)

There were no public comments.

New Business

a) Historic Preservation Overview and Updates

The Commission made introductions with the two new members. Celeste Pratt stated she relocated to Jackson County six years ago with her family and resides in Tuckasegee. She stated she has a background/degree in Interior Design and has practiced interior architecture at the commercial level for ten years prior to moving to the county. In addition, she stated her family purchased the Tritt Family Farmhouse in Moody Bottoms and was connected with the Genealogy Society to get more family history as they peeled back the layers to preserve the house, and she has a passion for historical preservation.

The other new member Brandon Core stated his family purchased a historic home, the AB Allison House in Webster and plans to restore the home. He stated he is originally from southwest Louisiana and spent twenty years of his career as a public educator in Texas. Mr. Core stated he and his wife have five children the oldest is 20 and lives in Austin. In addition, he stated they are super excited to be living in Jackson County as it feels like they handpicked it, and in his families opinion it is the best place on the planet.

Ms. Harkins stated the focus of the Commission is preserving buildings and sites, and landscapes through the local designation program for county historic landmarks. In addition, this includes helping property owners continue to maintain and preserve these landmarks through issuing certificates of appropriateness. Ms. Harkins stated the Commission also does public education for the community to access preservation resources available in the county or help researching specific sites or buildings. Currently, Jackson County has three sites on the local designation list and the plan is to continue adding more sites to the list.

Ms. Harkins stated staff has been working on modernizing the Historic Preservation Ordinance that has not been updated for at least ten years. The updated ordinance would include state required changes, certificate of appropriateness process, and different levels of review for staff and the Commission on maintenance for property owners of historic structures. In addition, she stated staff is also working on design standards that the Commission would use when reviewing new work on a historic landmark. Staff is anticipating having the draft ordinances for review by the Commission by the end of the summer.

Ms. Harkins informed the Commission she has spoken with some community members that are interested in local designation. She has been contacted about the Cogdill house on Crawford Cemetery Road, and she found the NC Historic Preservation Office put the house on the study list as a potential historic site for its architecture. One of the rare features of this home that is not typically seen in Jackson County is it has a double porch. She stated the property owner is currently doing research on the home to bring before the Commission to determine its significance to the county.

In addition, Bill Crawford came to staff a couple of months ago regarding a marker that he had in his possession for the Jackson County Home. The home was located where Southwestern Community College exists today, and he wanted to place the marker in the county home cemetery where many of the individuals that lived in the home are buried. Staff directed Mr. Crawford to reach out to the Jackson County Cemetery Board, and the Commissioners approved the placement of the marker with the help of Jackson County Public Works Department. Mr. Crawford stated the marker was put up with the Jackson County Home was built in 1924 and when Paul Lewis tore down the home in 1986 his father took the marker home and gave it to Allen Frady to clean it up who moved but Mr. Crawford reached out and was able to obtain the marker. Susan Leveille stated the home existed in the County before there were federal monies that took care of aged people with no resources. Ms. Leveille stated the home had a wide porch on all four sides, and a beautiful garden that fed the residents of the home. Mr. Crawford stated they were self-sufficient as they kept milk cows, and chickens along with the garden.

The Commission discussed potential local landmarks to consider such as the train tunnel and the school water fountain in Dillsboro and the suspension bridge off the Tuckasee River. Ms. Meister stated the Mountain Heritage Center is now planning for Mountain Heritage Day which is the last Saturday of September and they have a nonprofit sector section if the Commission wants to consider to have more public exposure.

Ms. Parris inquired if the Commission could focus on the local public schools as she realized during the pandemic much of the counties heritage and history is becoming lost amongst the students. In addition, she inquired if the Commission could put together a brochure that could teach students about the historical significance of sites and buildings in the county. Ms. Harkins stated the Commission could develop a brochure for education purposes.

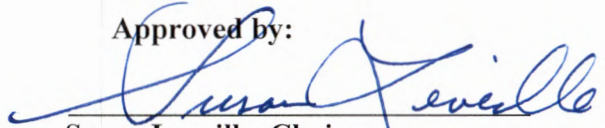
Adjournment:

With no further business, Luther Jones made a motion to adjourn at 6:17 p.m. Bill Crawford seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted by:


Allison Kelley, Administrative Assistant

Approved by:


Susan Leveille, Chair