

# JACKSON COUNTY HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

## MINUTES

<b>Date:</b> May 21, 2019								
<b>Time Begin:</b> 5:12 pm								
<b>Time End:</b> 5:52 pm								
<b>Location:</b> Jackson County Public Library, Genealogy Study Room								
Members	Present	Absent		Present	Absent		Present	Absent
Daniel Peoples	X		Jane Eastman		X	Carl Iobst		X
Susan Leveille	X		Joe Rhinehart	X		Beth Parris		X
Connie Haire	X		Luther Jones	X				
Bill Crawford	X		Pam Meister	X				

**Others Present:**

Caroline LaFrienier, Planner 1  
 Allison Kelley, Administrative Assistant

**Call to Order and Quorum Check**

Chairman Susan Leveille called the meeting to order at 5:12 p.m. and a quorum was present.

**Public Comment (3 minutes per speaker)**

There were no public comments.

**Approval of the Agenda**

Connie Haire made a motion to approve the agenda as written. Daniel Peoples seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

**Approval of the Minutes**

Pam Meister made a motion to approve the minutes from April 16<sup>th</sup>, 2019. Connie Haire seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

**New Business**

**a) Debrief of Greening Up the Mountains**

Ms. LaFrienier informed the Commissioners they gave out all one-hundred scavenger hunt booklets, and only around forty people came back to collect their puzzle prize. Chairman Susan Leveille inquired if staff had a copy of the scavenger hunt booklet and puzzle. Ms. LaFrienier stated staff had a copy of both and were stored for the record.

Daniel Peoples suggested the Commissioners continue to have a puzzle prize at the festival as a collectible item. In addition, he suggested the picture on the puzzle could be a different year or even follow a pattern of every ten years.

Pam Meister stated the Commission should try to get the Sylva Herald involved with the picture early on to have it published before the festival potentially. Ms. Leveille stated when she spoke to the Sylva Herald about an article and picture, they informed her that most of the groups at the festival would also want that. They could start to consider taking out and ad in the paper

Ms. LaFrienier mentioned there were some children that had difficulty with the scavenger hunt and needed help from a parent or the Commissioners. She was considering next year they could potentially do two booklets, one for adults and one for children (12 and

under). In addition, she plans to create an event on Facebook in advance to reach a wider audience. Ms. LaFrienier informed the Commissioners they would continue to have small discussions of the Greening Up the Mountains festival to be more prepared for next year.

Ms. Meister stated the community enjoyed the "Then and Now" photographs in the booth, and Ms. LaFrienier added they had people that wanted to buy the pictures. Connie Haire inquired if the Commissioners could receive funds for the pictures. Ms. LaFrienier stated the Commissioners would need to be a Certified Local Government to receive any funds or donations.

Ms. LaFrienier stated the coloring page for the children did well at the festival. She had an idea for next year to have a competition from a class for what drawing they choose. Ms. Haire suggested a potential five-page coloring book made by an art class of historic places or even the scavenger hunt items. Ms. LaFrienier stated she believes it was an interior design class that came excited to participate in the scavenger hunt. She stated, they might be a potential class that may be interested in developing a coloring book.

#### **b) Updates**

Caroline LaFrienier informed the Commission Mr. and Mrs. Chaffin from Glenville reached out to her to have their structures listed on the National Register of Historic Places. She stated she reached out to Annie McDonald (Preservation Specialist for the NC State Historic Preservation Office), and it appeared when Cashiers did their survey of historic structures they designated it not eligible. She stated Ms. McDonald is planning on visiting in mid-July to visit and document the property. In addition, while Ms. McDonald is in town, Ms. LaFrienier thought she could visit the Grimshawe Post Office (the smallest Post Office in the U.S.A), which is located on Whiteside Cove. Ms. LaFrienier stated the Grimshawe's owned 300 acres up the road, and their grandfather is still living on the property. The house was surveyed by the Cashiers Historical Society in Cashiers, but it is not on the National Register. Ms. Leveille stated she would follow up with the owners of the property to see if they were still interested.

Ms. LaFrienier stated there was another house that is set to be destroyed by the new Silver Run Subdivision, which was approved by the Planning Board this month. She stated, it is an underground concrete house and would have Ms. McDonald document and take pictures.

Joe Rhinehart stated they would have a program in the Methodist church about the end of the War. He stated, they had this same program 100 years ago and wanted to have it on the same day, in the same location in the old part of the Methodist Church. Mr. Rhinehart stated they plan to get the descendants to come speak about their father or grandfather from the War and plan to sing the same hymns. However, they are currently renovating the church, and the program would have to take place in June.

Ms. Haire informed the Commission the Methodist Church is redesigning the sanctuary. The carpet, and pews have been removed and they have someone working on redesigning the pulpit.

#### **Informal Discussion**

Ms. LaFrienier inquired if the Commissioners plan to have a presence at Mountain Heritage Day they should start to brainstorm ideas for the festival. Last year she spoke about the National Register for the Jackson County Historical Society. Mr. Rhinehart stated, the Historical Society would still have their regular timeslot early in the morning. Pam Meister



added the Commission could do something different by continuing with the idea of an historic coloring book, they could be in the children's tent.

Luther Jones inquired since the Mountain Heritage Center is working on the Women's Suffrage movement exhibit, if there was a way the Commission could correspond within the festival.

Ms. Meister stated from her research she had discovered the southern states were written off by the northern states. She stated, it was 72 years after the amendment was first submitted to congress before the amendment was ratified. There were three generations of women who worked on this movement. Ms. Meister stated there would be an exhibit based on this movement, potentially a traveling component, and potentially a film series.

Ms. Meister informed the Commissioners she was considering to include the "Then and Now" pictures used at the Greening Up the Mountains festival as an exhibit at the Library. She stated she would coordinate with Ms. LaFrienier to start the process.

Mr. Jones requested staff to look into the swinging bridge and steel girder bridge (old Barkers Creek Bridge). Ms. Leveille inquired how many swinging bridges existed in Jackson County prior to the Flood of 1940. Mr. Jones believed there were four or five after the Flood due to no access across the river. He stated, swinging bridges were built as it was the quickest way to cross the river. Ms. Leveille stated there used to be a swinging bridge near The Shops at Riverwoods in Dillsboro, and one near East Laporte.

Ms. Leveille stated she noticed with the new bridge between Sylva and Dillsboro, they no longer have brass plaques with the date of the bridge. Ms. Haire added she believes they carve the date in the concrete now as it is a cheaper alternative.

Ms. Leveille updated the Commission on the Riverwood Shops were still listed for sale. In addition, she did not know anything further on the Jarrett House, only what was printed in the paper and that no one has signed any papers to purchase the house.

Mr. Rhinehart told a story about his Aunt Gertrude Dills. Ms. Dills was very involved in the confederacy and decided North Carolina needed a statue on the battlefield in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania. Ms. Dills made a speech at the program dedicating the statue to the fallen soldiers. The following day, the editor of the Philadelphia newspaper wrote an editorial stating that he did not believe there would ever be a female president, but if there was, it would be Gertrude Dills.


**Adjournment:**

With no further business, Luther made a motion to adjourn. Connie Haire seconded the motion, and the meeting adjourned at 5:52 p.m.

**Respectfully Submitted by:**

  
Allison Kelley, Administrative Assistant

**Approved by:**

  
Susan Leveille, Chair