

JACKSON COUNTY HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

MINUTES

Date: July 16, 2019								
Time Begin: 5:23 pm								
Time End: 6:30 pm								
Location: 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 II
June Smith

Call to Order and Quorum Check

Chairman Susan Leveille called the meeting to order at 5:23 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. Pam Meister seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

Approval of the Minutes

Luther Jones made a motion to approve the minutes from June 18th, 2019. Bill Crawford seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

New Business

a) HPC Interview Project Update

Caroline LaFrienier introduced June Smith to the Commission as she is here to discuss the interview project to determine if she would be interested helping conduct the interviews. Ms. Smith stated was introduced to the HPC Interview Project from Pam Meister. Ms. Smith has conducted many interviews in the past and reached out to Ms. LaFrienier to discuss the overall intended goal for the interview project.

Ms. LaFrienier stated the interviews would be stored on Jackson County's hard drive, would be available to the public on YouTube, and the videos would be shown at the Jackson County Public Library in the Community Room for the public to attend to hear about residents and the community. Ms. Haire stated they should include a written transcription of the interviews for research purposes and an alternative for those who do not use technology. Pam Meister stated if the videos are added on the Hunter Library website, they are typically transcribed by student interns. Ms. LaFrienier stated Jackson County has a video camera, tripod, and recorder to transcribe the interviews.

Ms. LaFrienier presented the overview goal of the HPC Interview Project is to document stories of old time Jackson County for future generations to enjoy, and prevent the loss of community

knowledge as transmitted by our elders. This project would be a form of public education of Jackson County history and culture.

Ms. LaFrienier asked the Commissioners to review the list of interviewees and interview questions. The Commissioners informed staff Roger Shelton, Jimmy Allman, and Ray Kinsland were deceased. In addition, she asked if there were any additional people to add to the interviewee list. Ms. Smith stated she did not see an interviewee from Canada in the county. Chairman Leveille stated people from Canada would have knowledge of logging and inquired if any of the interviewees had knowledge of the Jackson County Paper Mill. Mr. Crawford stated Harold Hensley's father and brother both worked at the Paper Mill. In addition, the Commission mentioned Gary Carden was involved in the tannery.

Chairman Leveille asked Bill Crawford about the sauerkraut factory that was in Tuckasegee. Mr. Crawford stated Charles Bruce Wikes mother-in-law, Martha Jane Lovedahl (formerly Smith), lived in Tuckasegee, and either a relative or someone who knew Ms. Lovedahl would be a good candidate to interview regarding the factory. In addition, informed staff the person to contact for additional information would be Doris Dills Beck's father's half-sister.

Ms. Haire inquired if there was anyone from the interviewees that had knowledge of the churches and their development over the years. She stated the Commission should consider to add the relatives of Patsy and Harold McGuire on the list of interviewees as both were raised in the Sylva United Methodist Church. Bill Crawford asked the Commission to consider Nelma Bryson as her ancestors built the Balsam Mountain Inn. Mr. Jones stated the Commissioners originally focused on the elders in the area. However, Mr. Jones inquired to consider the next generation as they are researching and gathering the information from the prior generation.

Ms. Haire informed the Commission, Ann McKee is in the process of developing the history of High Hampton Inn & Resort. Pam Meister stated the resort was planning to create a history center, and hired a recent graduate of Western Carolina University (WCU) to work on the archives.

June Smith inquired if Reggie Rogers on the list was related to the Rogers family that were stone masons. Ms. Meister stated she did not believe it was a direct connection from her knowledge. She stated William Rogers was a stone masonry, served in World War I, worked stateside as an engineer, and his family had a farm in Cullowhee. In addition, he built a large amount of the stone walls that are around the older part of WCU.

b) Greening Up the Mountains Discussion

The Commissioners tabled this discussion until the next regular scheduled meeting.

c) National Register of Historic Places Update

Ms. LaFrienier informed the Commission that Annie McDonald (Preservation Specialist for the NC State Historic Preservation Office) and staff conducted site visits on July 15th, 2019 and discussed the new survey project. Ms. McDonald informed Ms. LaFrienier her office completed a historic survey of the buildings of WCU and would not be included in the county wide historical survey.

Pam Meister stated that on the Mountain Heritage page on WCU's webpage there is information on the architectural history of the university, which was done by a student as a capstone project.

Mr. Rhinehart inquired if the Commission should consider the Cherokee fish weir. Ms. LaFrienier stated she would reach out to Ms. McDonald to discuss if the fish weir is appropriate for the National Register (NR). However, placing the weir on the NR does not protect it from potential future development and damage. Ms. LaFrienier stated she would speak to Ms. McDonald as the fish weir may be considered as an archeological site on the NR.

Ms. LaFrienier updated the Commission that both Jewel J. Revis Memorial Bridge (bridge number 63) and Suspension Bridge (bridge number 352) on Barkers Creek Road are eligible for the

NR and Ms. McDonald is currently gathering information from the state archives. Once all of the information is gathered, Ms. LaFrienier stated she would bring that to the Commission to determine if they should move forward to begin the study list application. In addition, Ms. McDonald found St. David's Episcopal Church is also a good candidate for the NR, and asked June Smith to work on the study list application.

Ms. LaFrienier stated Ms. McDonald found the Chaffin house to be eligible for architectural significance as the property owners father built the house from wormy chestnut trees that were logged on the property. They had a discussion of how to preserve the property as the NR does not put restrictions on development of the property or structure. The property owners are considering a conservation easement with Highlands-Cashiers Land Trust to protect the property from future development, and make it accessible for public use, walking trails, etc.

Adjournment:

With no further business, Luther Jones made a motion to adjourn. Connie Haire seconded the motion, and the meeting adjourned at 6:18 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by:


Allison Kelley, Administrative Assistant

Approved by:


Susan Leveille, Chair