

JACKSON COUNTY HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

MINUTES

Date: August 22, 2017								
Time Begin: 5:30 pm								
Time End: 6:49 pm								
Location: Jackson County Public Library – Conference Room								
Members	Present	Absent		Present	Absent		Present	Absent
Maudie Phillips		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				

Staff Present:

Mike Poston, Planning Director
 Caroline Edmonds, Planner 1
 Shelby Cook, Administrative Assistant

Call to Order and Quorum Check

Vice chair Beth Parris called the meeting to order at 5:36 p.m. and a quorum was present.

Public Comment

There were no public comments.

Approval of the Agenda

“Confederate statue” was added as New Business item A. *Carl Iobst made a motion to approve the agenda with its one addition. Luther Jones seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.*

Approval of the Minutes

Luther Jones made a motion to approve the minutes from May 16, 2017 with no changes or additions. Carl Iobst seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

New Business

a) Confederate Statue

National controversy over Confederate statues and monuments has raised concerns within the Commission about the Confederate soldier monument on the old courthouse steps.

Under State Statute 100-2.1 - “protection of monuments, memorials, and works of art”, a memorial owned by the State may not be removed, relocated, or altered in any way without approval of the North Carolina Historical Commission. The exceptions for relocating the monument would be if it is deemed unsafe by a building inspector or similar official, or if it required protection and preservation because of damages.

The courthouse itself was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1979. As far as staff can tell, the statue is not included in the National Register designation, but they have reached out to the State Historic Preservation Office for further information.

While the County is limited in what it can do with the statue, Commission members feel that focusing on history and educating the public on state statute 100-2.1 could ease the controversy.

Instead of a public meeting or information session, alternative methods could be utilizing the internet or print media for education tools. As Mike Poston explained, County administration is also aware of this matter, and he anticipates that the Board of Commissioners will address the issue soon.

b) Historic Preservation projects

At the last meeting, members discussed getting involved with local kids to do some different historic preservation projects. The Commission would like to use "front porch talks" as a fun and unique way to preserve the history of the County. This involves finding local people in the community to interview on camera about their childhood and the history of the area. Staff will email a reminder to the Commission, and by the next meeting there should be a list compiled of potential interviewees.

c) Facebook: Joyner Building at WCU

The Joyner Building will be covered in the HPC Facebook post for August. Caroline Edmonds discovered some photos of the now gone Joyner Building in WCU's archives. The brick institutional building was used for classrooms and administration purposes. It was constructed on a personal loan from Alonzo Reynolds in 1913 and '14, and was built under the guidance of area builder John Leach. The bricks used for construction were made on campus, and several of those bricks were recovered from the scene when the building was destroyed by a fire in 1981. It was the oldest building on campus at the time of its destruction.

Informal Discussion

The next Historic Preservation Commission meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, September 19th at 5:30 p.m.

Adjournment

With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 6:49 p.m.

Submitted by:

Approved by:



Shelby Cook, Administrative Assistant
Planning Department



Susan Morgan Leveille, Chair