

Minutes
Union County Historic Preservation Commission
4 August 2011

The Union County Historic Preservation Commission met at 1:30 pm on Thursday, August 4, 2011, in the Heritage Room at the historic Union County Courthouse, Monroe, North Carolina.

Present: Dr. Jerry Surratt, Brad Hudson, Sis Dillon, Danny Stegall,
John Dickerson,
Dale Loberger, Crystal Crump
Absent: Jane Ellickson, Charles Williams
Also Present: Virginia Bjorlin, Mary Lou Gamble, Harriett Moore
Paulette Kerr, owner of Kerr Farms, 9616 Joe Kerr Road, Waxhaw, NC

The meeting was called to order by Dr. Jerry Surratt, Chairman.

Approval of Minutes

Dr. Surratt asked if there were any comments or questions regarding the March minutes. Mrs. Hudson motioned to approve the March minutes. Mr. Stegall seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous. He noted that there were only two members present at the meeting scheduled in May; therefore there were no minutes to approve.

Financial Report

Dr. Surratt asked if there were any questions regarding the financial statement. Mrs. Gamble said that the City and the County had made their budget appropriations for the last quarter of the year and that the next request for funds for the 2011-2012 Budget cannot be made until October.

Report of Committees

There were no reports at this time.

Unfinished Business

Dr. Surratt said that a letter has been prepared along with the documentation requesting that a public hearing be scheduled for designation of the Charles Iceman House, 900 West Franklin Street, Monroe, NC. The packet will be sent to Lisa Stiwinter, City of Monroe Planning Department. The Monroe City Council will determine a date for the public hearing to consider designation of this property.

Dr. Surratt reported that there had been no response from the Board of Union County Commissioners about the request for the use of more rooms in the courthouse.

Dr. Surratt commented on the additional space that the Heritage Room has acquired and that the move is complete. Mr. Bjorlin thanked Mrs. Gamble for her help and direction in making the move.

Dr. Surratt asked commission members for comments about joining the National Alliance of Preservation Commissions. The annual fee is \$80. Mr. Dickerson asked what benefits there are for joining. Mrs. Bjorlin said that they send literature occasionally. Mr. Dickerson motioned that the Preservation Commission decline membership in the organization. Mrs. Hudson seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

Dr. Surratt asked about grant money for the proposed museum. The \$50,000 that the Board of Union County Commissioners appropriated for a feasibility study to establish a museum was frozen due to the recession. Mrs. Gamble said that she has a list of resources for grants that was emailed by Mark Deforrest. Dr. Surratt suggested that we should contact Sidney Halma and ask if he would be interested in finding and writing grants. The Preservation Commission would need to have the funds to pay for the writing of the grants. Mr. Halma charges \$250/day for his research. Mrs. Gamble added that we would have to have a tax exempt status before we could accept money from grants, and the fee for applying for a 501-C3 is very high. Mrs. Bjorlin volunteered to contact Mr. Halma. She noted that the clock that was donated by the Brooks family was accepted by the Union County Historical Society which does have a tax exempt status.

Consideration of Applications

Dr. Surratt noted that the Unionville Baptist Church, 4799 Unionville Road, Monroe, NC, ca 1905, formerly known as Unionville Methodist Church, can be reconsidered for designation. The members of the Preservation Commission expressed concern that the exterior had been covered with vinyl siding when the evaluation was made. The Preservation Commission sent a letter to the the church asking if they would consider removing the vinyl siding. The Church would like the structure designated "as is" due to the expense of removing the siding and also the expense of painting the wood. Mrs. Gamble said that an evaluation has been done, and the approval was made on contention of Paul Fromberg's visit. She also talked to Mr. Rob Crawford, Preservation Commissions Coordinator at Archives in Raleigh, who said that the structure could be designated "as is". Dr. Surratt asked that the Historic Preservation Commission proceed with the designation. Mr. Loberger made a motion that the Commission proceed with the designation process noting the church's need to protect the structure. Mr. Stegall seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous. After some discussion about the cost of preparing a Survey and Research Report, Mr. Stegall made motion that the Preservation Commission request that the owners of the church pay half the cost of hiring an architectural historian to prepare the architectural description. Mr. Loberger seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous. Mr. Sidney Halma will be contacted to prepare the report.

Dr. Surratt introduced Paulette Kerr, owner of Kerr Farms, 9616 Joe Kerr Road, Waxhaw, NC. The house was built about 1850. Ms. Kerr gave an extensive report about the house, providing photographs and other historical information. Evaluation sheets were given to the commission members to review categories. Commission members will prepare the evaluation at the next meeting.

Questions were asked by the commission members as photographs of the property were passed around. Dr. Surratt suggested that Paul Fromberg, Preservation Specialist, NC Archives, be contacted and asked to come and give advice about the historical significance of the farm. Mrs. Gamble listed for Ms. Kerr some information that would be helpful in preparing the Survey and Research Report.

New Business

There was no new business at this time.

Adjournment

The next meeting will be planned for September 1, 2011.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dr. Jerry Surratt, Chairman