

**Boone Historic Preservation Commission
Meeting Minutes
April 11, 2017**

Historic Preservation Commission Members in Attendance: Eric Plaag-Chairman, Teresa Pearman-Vice Chairperson, Loretta Clawson, Rennie Brantz, Bettie Bond, Nicholas Williams, and Chuck Watkins

Town Staff in Attendance: Christy Turner-Senior Planner, and Brenda Henson-Board Secretary

Others in Attendance: Paul Fuller-Intern

Call to Order

Chairman Plaag called the meeting of the Boone Historic Preservation Commission, held in the Planning & Inspections upstairs conference room located at 680 West King Street, to order at 3:05 p.m.

Adoption of Agenda

Chairman Plaag suggested moving the Boone Flood Marker and Linney House discussions to the beginning of the agenda in order to allow Mr. Fuller to leave the meeting earlier. Commission Member Brantz made a motion to approve the agenda as amended. The motion was seconded by Commission Member Clawson.

VOTE: Aye – All
 Nay – None

The motion passed.

Approval of Meeting Minutes

Commission Member Brantz made a motion to approve the March 7, 2017 meeting minutes as written. The motion was seconded by Commission Member Bond.

VOTE: Aye – 5
 Nay – None
 Abstain – 2 (Williams, Watkins)

The motion passed.

Old Business

Boone Flood Marker Update

Mr. Fuller stated he had researched railroad history books, the Watauga Democrat, and Appalachian collections to help him compile a coherent narrative.

Chairman Plaag noted that the state had received their submittal and should hopefully have something back to him by the end of May. If the submittal is approved, it was previously discussed that the marker should be placed in the bulb-out at Linney Street. Chairman Plaag felt they should know by the end of June the timeline for receiving the plaque. A marker dedication was discussed and Commission Member Bond suggested August 13, 2017 because it would be the 77th anniversary of the flood. All members were agreeable to this date. Chairman Plaag suggested a time of 2:00 p.m.

Linney House Update

Chairman Plaag provided members with a copy of a photo from around 1905 of the Linney house as well as a copy of the floor plan **(on file)**.

Chairman Plaag stated that the Linney family acquired the property around 1900 and the house was already on the property. He noted that the first courthouse was situated on this property and it burned in 1873. Chairman Plaag felt that the house was probably built between 1873 and 1900, likely around 1890. He stated that the front door of the house faced Queen Street and by 1910 changes were being made. Chairman Plaag stated that the stone spring house was built in 1902 and was used as a wash house. An addition was built onto the house in 1930.

Mr. Fuller stated that he went to the State Historic Preservation Office's website in order to get the guidelines to create an outline for the narrative.

Chairman Plaag stated he hoped to finish the revisions this week so that the HPC can vote on the designation in May.

Commission Member Bond asked if the law office was included in the request and Chairman Plaag replied that it was included.

Chairman Plaag stated that Frank Linney was the Chairman of the Republican Party, a candidate for governor of NC, was appointed by President Harding to serve as the federal attorney for this district, was instrumental in establishing the Junaluska Turnpike, and was the son of Romulus Z. Linney. Frank Linney died on his birthday.

Chairman Plaag stated he would send the revisions out to Commission members via email so they could review the document prior to voting on it in May.

Mr. Fuller left the meeting at 3:53 p.m.

Boone Cemetery

Chairman Plaag stated he would be doing cemetery survey retraining on April 21, 2017 at 10:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. All Commission members wishing to attend indicated they would be

attending at 1:00 p.m. so the 10:00 a.m. training was cancelled. A rain date of April 24, 2017 at 1:00 p.m. was scheduled.

Chairman Plaag stated he met with a reporter from the Watauga Democrat and gave his spin on the history of the Cemetery. Hopefully an article will run soon that will bring awareness to the Cemetery and the work being done there.

Chairman Plaag was concerned because the Junaluska Heritage Association still wanted to have their dedication ceremony in May. He stated he would check with the Town Manager and Roberta Jackson with the JHA regarding the ceremony.

Phase I Survey

Chairman Plaag stated he is still writing the survey reports and going through each property and each narrative. He noted he was working hard but had to balance this with his professional life. Chairman Plaag stated that Mr. Fuller would be leaving in July.

Power House

Chairman Plaag stated that he, Kristen Deathridge, and Dan Alion met with Ed Miller. Mr. Miller was willing to work with ASU to help preserve the Power House and Ms. Deathridge would be assisting Mr. Miller with some contact information. Chairman Plaag stated that the HPC could now only observe.

Rivers Walk

Ms. Turner stated that the Rivers Walk plans were not approved by staff. She explained that the height exceeded 40', which was not in accordance with their Conditional District approval, and noted that the property owner may have to appeal staff's decision regarding the height to the Board of Adjustment.

Commission Member Brantz asked if there were structural issues. Ms. Turner replied that the project, located in the downtown fire district, was designed with wooden beams so it would have to be redesigned with steel beams.

Other Matters by Commission Members or Staff

The next meeting is scheduled for May 9, 2017.

Set agenda for next meeting

- Boone Cemetery
- Phase I Survey Update
- Linney House & Law Office Designation
- Boone Flood Marker Update
- Rivers Walk & Marketplace Updates

Adjournment

Commission Member Clawson made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 4:17 p.m. The motion was seconded by Commission Member Brantz.

VOTE: Aye – All
 Nay – None

The motion passed.

Eric Plaag, Chairperson

Brenda Henson, Board Secretary