

**Boone Historic Commission
Meeting Minutes
April 22, 2009**

Committee Members in Attendance: Betty Bond, Chair, Janet Pepin, Bill Dixon, and Rennie Brantz.

Others in Attendance: Ricky Hurley-Planning Staff

Call to Order

Commission Chair Betty Bond called the meeting of the Boone Historic Commission to order at 2:00 p.m.

Approval of Minutes

Commission Member Dixon made a motion to approve minutes as corrected and Commission Member Brantz seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

Commission Chair Bond stated that Commission Member Chuck Watkins and the Jules Oroukin are unable to attend today.

Interview Results

Chair Bond stated that the Property Information Sheets sent to owners of property along Grand Boulevard by Commission Member Brantz and herself. The return rate is very low but many people are busy with the recent holiday. However, many out of town property owners did return their survey.

Chair Bond continued that Flavil Eggers is continuing to review the pictorial survey and plans to meet with her. Chair Bond feels that Orchard and Bear Trail should be added to the Grand Blvd area for consideration. The Queen Street area should be a separate area and the effort led by residents of that area. Commission Member Brantz felt that would avoid the appearance that Grand Boulevard was dominating the Commission's focus. Commission Member Dixon added that the Junaluska neighborhood is another area to consider.

Intern's Progress Report

Chair Bond stated the Commission should schedule another meeting to hear an update from Ms. Oroukin before classes end for the semester. Discussion ensued regarding ASU calendar and all agreed upon Wednesday, May 6 at 2 p.m. for the next meeting.

Criteria and Definitions for Historic Properties

Commission Member Pepin began discussion as to need for the development of definitions to define what is "historic" in Boone. Commission Member Dixon stated a property must be at least 50 years old for consideration by the Federal government. Commission Members Pepin and Brantz both mentioned 75 years as a good starting point for evaluation of properties.

Commission Member Brantz mentioned that landmarks are another type of resource that is not necessarily a building, like the old New River Dam site off of the greenway trail. Commission Member Dixon added that these are “special places” in the area. Commission Member Pepin stated that Gettysburg is considered a landmark; it does not actually contain buildings but is a site of national significance with acres and acres of land. Commission Member Brantz recapped the Commission’s discussion in that age, historical importance, and architectural importance should be criteria for consideration. Chair Bond felt that pace of development between the World Wars was very slow and 75 years may eliminate important buildings too quickly. Discussion ensued as to how old a building must be for consideration. Commission Member Dixon suggested a cutoff year of 1945 and a structure must be at least 64 years old for consideration. All members agreed to the 1945 cut-off year. Commission Member Pepin felt that historical significance could also include separate criteria for architectural significance. Discussion ensued as how to define criteria for architectural significance that may include builders, architect, or materials. Chair Bond stated that historical significance would include an event, whose home it was, who slept there. Commission Member Pepin added it should be emphasized as those persons of local importance. All agreed and added in local examples in the area. Chair Bond stated she was particularly interested in those persons of local significance and to educate local homeowner about their property’s history. Commission Member Brantz stated that architectural styles should not be limited to just Boone. Commission Member Dixon asked if landmarks are a fourth criteria. Commission Member Pepin asked if an age limit should be applied to this criteria. All agreed it should not, as important events can happen at any time. Commission Member Pepin stated that the discussed criteria would apply to property, as in structures. Landmarks can be applied to land, structures, buildings where significant events have occurred. Discussion ensued about examples of landmarks in Boone. Commission Member Pepin asked for a dictionary to see the definition of “landmark”. Planning Staff Member Ricky Hurley read the definitions to Commission Members. Discussion ensued as to the various definitions and applicability to properties.

Other Matters

Planning Staff member Ricky Hurley stated that Commission Member Bill Dixon’s term would end on June 30, 2009 so that he may decide if he wished to seek reappointment.

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, May 6, 2009 at 2 p.m.

The meeting adjourned at 3:35 p.m.

Betty Bond, Chair

Ricky Hurley, Planning Supervisor