

**TOWN OF BOONE
HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION
ADVISORY MEETING MINUTES
February 11, 2025, 3:00 p.m.
Planning & Inspections Department & WebEx Video Conferencing**

Historic Preservation Commission Members in Attendance: Vardell Smyth-Chair, Bettie Bond-Vice-Chair, and Ayden Basinger

Council Liaison: Virginia Roseman (via WebEx)

Town Staff in Attendance: Jessica Mitchell-Advanced Planning Specialist, Alyson Wuagneux-Customer Service Specialist, and Brenda Henson-Board Clerk

Call to Order

Chair Smyth called the Boone Historic Preservation Commission meeting held in the Planning & Inspections Conference Room at 680 West King Street and via WebEx to order at 3:11 p.m.

Adoption of Agenda

Commission Member Basinger made a motion, seconded by Vice-Chair Bond, to adopt the agenda.

Vote: Aye – 3
Nay – 0

The motion passed.

Approval of Minutes

Commission Member Basinger made a motion, seconded by Vice-Chair Bond, to approve the January 7, 2025, advisory meeting minutes.

Vote: Aye – 3
Nay – 0

The motion passed.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Stoneman's Raid Interpretative Panel Discussion with Drew Gruber (Civil War Trails)

Vice-Chair Bond stated she had been unable to speak with Jim Lewis regarding a possible quote for the Stoneman's Raid panel.

Ms. Mitchell reviewed the board packet material including Chair Smyth's work on a revised sketch map and the text (Version 2 in the board packet) based on the discussion with Drew Gruber from the Civil War Trails (CWT) program. She pointed out that the citation on the photo of Myles Keogh indicated he was a Captain, but the text called him a Major. Chair Smyth stated that Myles Keogh was a Major at the time of the raid but could have been a Captain when the photo was taken. Chair Smyth suggested changing the citation on the photo from Captain to Major to match the text. Ms. Mitchell stated she would need to check with the Amon Carter Museum of American Art, image source, before changing the citation.

Ms. Mitchell expressed that the introductory language in Version 2, "Riding from your left," provided more of a hook for the reader as part of the CWT suggestions. Commission members agreed and decided to recommend Version 2, title it "Stoneman's Raid," and incorporate some minor text changes as discussed.

Commission members agreed to the following revised text:

STONEMAN'S RAID

Riding from your left on the morning of March 28th, 1865, the vanguard of General Stoneman's 6000 Union Cavalry led by Maj Myles Keogh, included at least 13 Union loyalists from Watauga and surrounding counties, entered Boone (population under 1,000), surprising about 100 Confederate Home Guard members, who had gathered to drill at the courthouse (1,000 feet to your left).

Shots were fired, with some Home Guard falling back to the home of James W. Council, which stood directly in front of you. The Union Cavalry returned fire and charged, quickly ending the skirmish and sending the defenders fleeing up the slopes of Howard's Knob.

"We arrived this a.m. with the Twelfth Kentucky in the Advance, captured the place, killing 9, capturing 62 home guards..." Maj Gen. Stoneman. The Union reported no casualties.

Union Cavalry continued to pour into town for the rest of the day, with Gen Stoneman requisitioning the Council house for his headquarters. Stoneman and most of his Forces left Boone the next day, with orders to avoid battles, and "dismantle the country", destroying rail lines and materials that could be used by the then retreating Confederate Army.

On April 6th, Col. Kirk's NC Mounted Infantry arrive and occupied Boone for several weeks, blockading major routes through the mountains. Both the jail and courthouse were burned. Both Union and Confederate soldiers are interred in the nearby Boone Cemetery.

Chair Smyth felt that the HPC should do something else at a later date to further outline the occupation of Boone.

Commission members agreed to revise the sketch map to add an apostrophe in Howard's Knob, remove (County Park), and add the words Howard Street near the Boone Cemetery location. Commission members provided consensus on the text and map with the revisions as discussed.

Staff Updates

Statement of Conformity Report

Ms. Mitchell stated there were no new applications for Statements of Conformity within the last 30 days.

HPC Work Plan

Ms. Mitchell noted that the HPC Work Plan was presented to the Town Council at the Planning Retreat last week. There were no questions or changes so that the HPC would continue with the Work Plan.

Town of Boone Website

Ms. Mitchell stated that the Planning & Inspections page on the Town's website was being updated. Vice-Chair Bond suggested providing a link to Digital Watauga under the Historic Preservation Commission page.

Stoneman's Raid Funding

Ms. Mitchell stated that she provided a brief update for the funding partners for the Stoneman's Raid Interpretative Panel, which included the DBDA and the Watauga County Historical Society. She would let them know that they were nearing the finalization of the draft submission. Vice-Chair Bond felt that the TDA should be approached about helping fund this project.

Ms. Mitchell noted that the next HPC meetings were scheduled for March 4, 2025, and March 11, 2025. She said that there would be cases for the March 11 quasi-judicial meeting.

HPC Member Updates

Vice-Chair Bond provided details of an upcoming event at the Watauga County Library in association with the Watauga County Historical Society on March 13, 2025 at 5:30 p.m.

Adjournment

Commission Member Basinger made a motion, seconded by Vice-Chair Bond, to adjourn the meeting at 4:02 p.m.

Vote: Aye – 3

Nay – 0

The motion passed.

Vardell Smyth, Chair

Brenda Henson, Board Clerk