

Boone Historic Preservation Commission
Meeting Minutes
June 12, 2018
3:00 p.m.

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

Town Staff in Attendance: Christy Turner-Senior Planner, John Ward-Town Manager, Syrena Travis-Town Hall Intern and Marlene Crosby-Board Secretary

Call to Order

Chairperson 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

Member Brantz made a motion, seconded by Member Bond to accept the agenda as amended with the adding of the following agenda items: Under Other Matters - Review of the Council Liaisons, Historic Preservation Commission meeting dates and Under the Sustainability Forum Event - Status of the Weaving Cabin across from the Dan'l Boone Inn Restaurant.

Vote:

Aye – All
Nay – None

The motion passed.

Approval of Minutes

Member Clawson made a motion, seconded by Member Brantz to accept the May 8, 2018 meeting minutes with the following changes: On page five, the first paragraph change “1988 to present” to “throughout the 20th Century”. On page five, the sixth paragraph first sentence change “Mr. Turned” to “Ms. Turner”.

Vote:

Aye –
Nay – None

The motion passed.

Discussion of the Sustainability Forum Event

Chairperson Plaag confirmed that the date of this event is on first Friday, September 7, 2018 starting at 5:30 p.m. at the Jones House.

Discussion ensued on the possible showing of the environmental protest film on the blown up screen. It was noted that Mr. Arthur Flowers, son of Mr. George Flowers, Photographer created the film.

Chairperson Plaag questioned if the showing of the film would be a good fit for the event program. Member Bond talked about possibly putting a soundtrack to the film.

Chairperson Plaag said he was not sure if it is a good fit for HPC's role. Chairperson Plaag asked Ms. Turner who is invited to participate in this event.

Ms. Turner explained that this event is an Earth Day event that is occurring after Earth Day. She said that Bee City, USA and Tree City, USA will be occurring at this event and an assembly of most of the educational programs of the Town.

Discussion ensued on the format for the event. Ms. Turner said it is mostly people stopping and looking at tables of information. Chairperson Plaag suggested putting together a Lost Boone Exhibit and borrow images from Digital Watauga to put in it. He said they could show in the exhibit, what buildings we lost and what buildings we saved in the Town.

Mr. John Ward, Town Manager explained that Ms. Syrena Travis, Town Intern would be available until August 2018 to help the HPC with this event.

Chairperson Plaag said the HPC needs to decide what topics they want to showcase at the event. It was suggested to possibly showcase the 1904 Courthouse, PNC building and other Downtown buildings that are no longer in existence. It was the consensus of the HPC members to further discuss this agenda item at their July 2018 meeting.

Discussion ensued on possibly streaming this event online and on the Boone cable channel.

Discussion ensued on the status of the gift shop/weaving cabin located across from the Dan'l Boone Inn. Mr. Ward stated that he has not pursued the relocating of the cabin because there is no funding identified for it. Chairperson Plaag further explained that the owner of the cabin had talked about gifting the cabin to the Town. It was noted that there was a possibility that the fireplace might not survive the moving of the cabin. It was decided that the HPC would keep an eye out on future changes to the weaving cabin and to let Mr. Ward know about them.

Mr. Ward explained that the demolition permits for the old buildings at the location of the new Riverwalk and Marketplace Hotel have been issued and the Goodnight Brothers demolition permit is under review to be issued. Mr. Ward noted that the properties associated with these demolitions are located in the Municipal Service District and they will significantly impact the district.

Update on the 1940 Flood Marker

Mr. Ward said he will confirm by the July 2018 HPC meeting that the flood marker will be installed by the first of August 2018. It was confirmed that the flood marker event will be held on August 13, 2018 at 5:30 p.m. at Jimmy Smith Park.

Discussion ensued on the press release for the 1940 Flood Marker event. Mr. Ward explained the process for the press release and suggested that the HPC create an invite list to include other people like the Watauga County Historical Society.

Chairperson Plaag said he could prepare a draft press release for the 1940 Flood Marker and after the HPC has reviewed it, he would forward it to Ms. Nicole Worley, Town Clerk.

Chairperson Plaag explained that there is a Boone Chamber of Commerce Lunch and Learn on August 8, 2018 at the Council Chambers located at 1500 Blowing Rock Rd. He said this could be an opportunity for the Town to partner with the Boone Chamber to coordinate all of the publicity for this event. Chairperson Plaag said he could speak on the 1940 Flood at the lunch and learn. He said he could focus his presentation specifically on the location of the flooding in Boone. It was noted that this event will be posted on the Town's website.

Update on the Power House

Chairperson Plaag explained about the collapsing of the Power House. He noted that no repairs have been made to it. He said he received an email asking the HPC to help draw attention to it. Mr. Ward explained that the HPC could make a recommendation to Council that the Mayor write a letter of encouragement to the University regarding the repairing of the Power House.

Chairperson Plaag said he could prepare the draft recommendation to Council that the University and New River Light and Power work together to repair it. He said he would bring the draft recommendation to the next HPC meeting for their review.

Chairperson Plaag asked Mr. Ward for two bundles of wooden stakes to be used at the Boone Cemetery.

Mr. Ward left the meeting at 4:09 p.m.

Discussion of the Phase I Survey Report Entries

Chairperson Plaag explained that he is waiting to speak with his contact at SHPO before he can complete the survey report. He said he has five and one-half more properties to write the descriptions on.

Discussion ensued on the HPC's feedback to the survey report entries. Member Bond pointed out some changes to WTO597 Edwin N. Hahn Building. Member Brantz pointed out some corrections to WTO595 J.L. Qualls Block (1922) and WTO596 BW Stallings Jewelry Store (1937).

Discussion ensued on Mr. Paul Weston. Chairperson Plaag said he was an active photographer in the 1930's, into the 1960's and he passed away around 1962.

Discussion ensued on the previous locations of the Hallmark store and Carolina Business Machine businesses on W. King Street. It was noted that Jimmy Johns is now where the Carolina

Business Machines used to be located. It was noted that Dancing Moon is now where the Hallmark store used to be located.

Discussion ensued on the prior locations of Footsloggers and the Dancey Shoe Store. It was determined that the old Dancey Shoe Store space was once occupied by Footsloggers on W. King Street prior to the Dancey Shoe Store being located there.

It was also determined that the Hahn building and the Stallings building are two different buildings.

Chairperson Plaag asked the HPC members to continue to review the entries and let him know of any other changes that he needs to make on them.

Ms. Syrena Travis, Town Hall Intern left the meeting at 4:45 p.m.

Other Matters by Commission Members or Staff

Chairperson Plaag reviewed the following meeting dates involving the HPC members:

- June 23, 2018 Main Date to work at Boone Cemetery
- June 24, 2018 Rain Date to work at Boone Cemetery
- July 1, 2018 Rain Date to work at Boone Cemetery, if needed.
- July 10, 2018 at 9 a.m. until 12 p.m. Quasi-Judicial Training at Blue Ridge Electric Conference Room
- July 10, 2018 at 3 p.m. HPC meeting in the Planning & Inspections Department – Upstairs Conference Room
- August 13, 2018 at 5:30 p.m. Boone Flood Marker Ceremony
- August 14, 2018 at 3 p.m. HPC meeting in the Planning & Inspections Department – Upstairs Conference Room
- August 17, 2018 Local Board Training at 9:30 a.m. until 12 p.m. in Hendersonville, North Carolina (pending budget approval)
- September 7, 2018 at 5:30 p.m. Sustainability Event at the Jones House
- September 11, 2018 at 3 p.m. HPC meeting in the Planning & Inspections Department – Upstairs Conference Room

Ms. Fotta left the meeting at 4:48 p.m.

Chairperson Plaag noted that the HPC will continue discussion on the Historic Design Guidelines at their August 2018 meeting.

Agenda Items to be discussed at the July 10, 2018 at 3 p.m. HPC meeting:

- Phase I Survey Report Entries Update
- Review the Press Release of the Boone Flood Marker Ceremony
- Discussion of the Historic Preservation Commission role in the Earth Day event
- Boone Cemetery Work Update
- Review the recommendations for the Power House

Member Brantz and Member Clawson left the meeting at 4:50 p.m.

Committee Review

Ms. Turner explained the following questions that the HPC needs to answer at this meeting:

10. What are the committee's major accomplishments in the last year?

- Continued progress on the Downtown Boone Resources Survey
- 1940 Flood Marker
- Re-dedication of the Union Soldiers Graves
- Assistance to and participation with the JHA on their marker in October of 2017
- Substantial completion of the fieldwork for the Boone Cemetery survey
- Local landmark designations for the Linney House and Linney Law Office in December of 2017
- This Place Matters in cooperation with the Downtown Boone Development Association
- Creation of partnerships among the Historic Preservation Commission, Town of Boone, Digital Watauga, Cultural Resources and Downtown Boone Development Association to assist the Town of Boone with historical research and images on any Town property

13. What role do Council Members on this committee serve?

- They are advocates for the HPC's positions in Council discussions
- They are guides to the HPC in terms of how to best accomplish the HPC's goals
- They bring knowledge and experience as individuals

14. Do Council Members of this committee receive special deference because they are on the Council? Chairperson Plaag and Member Bond said the answer is no.

Adjournment

Chairperson Plaag adjourned the meeting at 5:09 p. m.

Eric Plaag, Chairperson

Marlene Crosby, Board Secretary