

**TOWN OF BOONE
HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
September 5, 2023, 3:00 p.m.
WebEx Video Conferencing**

Historic Preservation Commission Members in Attendance:

Chair Eric Plaag and Vice-Chair Bettie Bond

Student Member: Riley Ziegler

Council Liaison: Virginia Roseman

Town Staff in Attendance:

Jane Shook-Director of Planning & Inspections, Jessica Mitchell-Long-Range/Special Projects Planner, Christy Turner-Senior Planner, Marlene Crosby-Board Secretary, Lane Moody-Downtown Boone Development Coordinator, Mark Freed-Director of Cultural Resources

Others in Attendance: Susan Keefe and Roberta Jackson-Junaluska Heritage Association Members, Brenda Councill, Rebecca Triplett-Johnson, Jill Privott, Terry Harmon-Appalachian State University, Andrea Burns-Appalachian State University, and Jodie Feimster

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Eric Plaag called the Boone Historic Preservation Commission meeting via WebEx to order at 3:02 p.m.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Vice-Chair Bond made a motion, seconded by Student Member Riley, to adopt the agenda as written.

Vote: Aye – All
Nay – None
The motion passed.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Student Member Ziegler made a motion, seconded by Vice-Chair Bond to approve the June 5, 2023, meeting minutes as amended with the following changes:

- Packet Page 5, paragraph five, fourth sentence: change “consists” to “consist”
- Packet Page 6, paragraph third, first sentence: change “had any commissioner” to “if any commissioner”
- Packet Page 16, paragraph five, second sentence: change “particular case that is a tertiary elevation” to “particular case, this is a tertiary elevation”
- Packet Page 16, paragraph seven, second sentence: change “He said with the crafty approach” to “He said the crafty approach”
- Packet Page 16, paragraph seven, third sentence: change “habitual” to “used”

Vote: Aye – All
Nay – None
The motion passed.

Vice-Chair Bond made a motion, seconded by Student Member Ziegler to approve the July 10, 2023 meeting minutes as amended with the following changes:

- Packet Page 25, paragraph four, third sentence: change “simplicist” to “simpler”
- Packet Page 25, paragraph six, first sentence: change “Chair Plaag explained that Ms. Ellie McCorkle, the HPC Intern, position ended on June 30.” to “Chair Plaag explained that the HPC Intern position held by Ms. Ellie McCorkle ended on June 30,” and change “June 30th” to June 30th”
- Packet Page 26, paragraph three, first sentence remove the superscript “th” from June 30th.
- Packet Page 26, paragraph three, second sentence: change “Jones House” to “R.L. Clay (Rivers) House”
- Packet Page 26, paragraph three, fifth sentence: change “Jones House” to “R.L. Clay (Rivers) House”
- Packet Page 26, paragraph three, sixth sentence: change “Jones House” to “R.L. Clay (Rivers) House”
- Packet Page 26, paragraph three, seventh sentence: change “Jones House” to “R.L. Clay (Rivers) House”
- Packet Page 26, paragraph four, first sentence change: “Hayes-Bryan-Greene” to Councill Store”

Vote: Aye – All
Nay – None
The motion passed.

Student Member Ziegler made a motion, seconded by Vice-Chair Bond to approve the July 11, 2023, meeting minutes as written.

Vote: Aye – All
Nay – None
The motion passed.

Student Member Ziegler made a motion, seconded by Vice-Chair Bond to approve the August 1, 2023, meeting minutes as amended with the following changes:

- Packet Page 41, Under the Historic Preservation Commission Members in Attendance: change “Erick” to Eric”
- Packet Page 41, Under Others in Attendance: change “Brenda Council” to “Brenda Councill” and change: “Council Fine Art Studio” to “Councill Fine Art Studio”
- Packet Page 43, paragraph one, first sentence: change “property owner has the same ability to control speech that occurs on its premises” to “property owner has a first amendment right to control speech made in its name”
- Packet Page 43, paragraph three, last sentence: change “Councill’s Store, and author,” to “Councill’s Store, but author”
- Packet Page 43, paragraph eight, first sentence: change “justifies” to “justify”
- Packet Page 44, paragraph one, first sentence: change “speaking for the Town and the Town effectively endorsing that speech”

- Packet Page 44, paragraph four, third sentence: change “Councill Family Members at that specific location” to “Councill Family Members at the Councill Store location”
- Packet Page 44, paragraph eight, first sentence: change “statute” to “monument”
- Packet Page 45, paragraph one, fourth sentence: change “Mr. Burrell” to “Burrell”
- Packet Page 45, paragraph four, fifth sentence: change “Mr. Burrell and found some concerns with the claim that Burrell was in Boone” to “Burrell and found some concerns with the accuracy with the story about Burrell”
- Packet Page 45, paragraph four, first sentence: change “represented through the mural depicting a later date in history that the founding of Boone” to “represented, through the mural depicting a later date in history than the founding of Boone”
- Packet Page 45, paragraph seven, fourth sentence: change “She pointed out that since her committee’s outreach” to “She pointed out that her committee’s outreach”
- Packet Page 46, paragraph three, third sentence: change “argumentatively” to “arguably”
- Packet Page 46, paragraph three, fourth sentence: change “the term meant “African descent” and” to “the term meant of “African descent” and”
- Packet Page 46, paragraph three, fifth sentence: change “He said you will find many African Americans that have dropped that term because they do not feel it is representative of their history” to “He said you will find many black populations have dropped that term because they do not feel it is representative of their history and the term is dated as of 2023”
- Packet Page 46, paragraph six, second sentence: change “He noted his concern based upon the donor model, would allow anyone to pay to have text included on the plaques” to “He noted his concern based upon the donor model which would require the town to allow anyone who pays to have text included on the plaques, as long as it is factual and historically accurate, to be essentially protected speech”
- Packet Page 47, paragraph two, second sentence: change “that idea.” to “that idea and he said”
- Packet Page 47, paragraph two, third sentence: change “1794” to “1790 forward”
- Packet Page 48, paragraph two, second sentence: change “needs” to “need”
- Packet Page 48, paragraph six, first sentence: change “Gerber” to “Gruber”
- Packet Page 49, paragraph one, first sentence: change “Gerber” to Gruber”

Vote: Aye – All

Nay – None

The motion passed.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Chair Plaag referred to the Town of Boone Rules of Procedures for Boards and Commissions for public comment. He explained that any public speakers would have five minutes per speaker in the order that they were received from the Planning and Inspections Department. Ms. Jessica Mitchell, Long-Range/ Special Projects Planner read the list of names of public speakers that she had received: Ms. Jill Privott, Ms. Brenda Councill, Mr. Terry Harmon, Ms. Tracy Councill, Ms. Roberta Jackson, Ms. Susan Keefe, Ms. Anna Boyce Phillips, Dr. Kristen Baldwin-Deathridge, Dr. Andrea Burns, Ms. Rebecca Triplett-Johnson, and Mr. David Phillips.

Chair Plaag asked the other HPC members if they were in agreement with the five minutes per speaker as outlined in the Town of Boone Rules of Procedure for Boards and Commissions for public comment. There was consensus from the HPC members.

The first speaker, Ms. Privott, thanked the HPC for taking into consideration the responses that she had submitted in her email dated August 24, 2023 regarding the Boone Cemetery Interpretative Panels. In her response, she stated that some good changes had been made to the proposed panel text and some of the statements were rather opinionated. She said that further management was needed to tweak the usage of historical words that are catch phrases that should not be used because years from now the words may not be historically accurate. She said there was a way to get a point across without using specific phrases. She cautioned the HPC about the usage of QR codes because they may become obsolete with future technology.

The second speaker, Ms. Brenda Council, explained that she concurred with Ms. Privott responses and with several other historians who have weighed in on the proposed text in the cemetery panels. She said this type of project cannot be rushed and a lot more research needed to be completed for the proposed text. She strongly requested that the HPC take their time on this proposed project and that many families needed to be involved in the discussion of it. She said the many opinions existing in the proposed text needed to be tempered considerably.

The third speaker, Mr. Terry Harmon, said that he had read the revisions to the proposed panel text, and he saw some improvements had been made to it. He pointed out a proposed change to Panel 1; he explained based on the Bible record, his suggestion that the word "circa" be removed from Benjamin Council's birth year. He further suggested in Panel 4, in the second paragraph, fourth sentence, to change: "who did held" to "who did hold." He said when you compare Panel 1 and Panel 3 there is one redundant part regarding the following topic "local tradition holds that the Council family interred those they enslaved in the east section and their family members at the crest of the hill to the west." He asked if the second paragraph in Panel 1 would better fit into Panel 3 because this panel talks specifically about a divided cemetery. He asked if the title of Panel 4: "Boone's Union Dead," could be re-worded to "Union Burials" or the "Cemetery's Union Dead."

Chair Plaag explained to Mr. Harmon that in previous HPC meetings it had been discussed that Panel 1 was intended to be placed inside the gate and it was meant to be a summary panel for the cemetery. He said this is the reason why some of the information was repeated on the other panels.

The fourth speaker on the list, Ms. Tracy Council, was not present to speak at the meeting.

The fifth speaker, Ms. Roberta Jackson, introduced herself as a member of the Junaluska Heritage Association. She said the members of the JHA are always interested with anything having to do with their community.

The sixth speaker, Ms. Susan Keefe, noted that she had read all of the materials that had been produced and she supported and appreciated the work of the HPC on this project.

The seventh speaker, Ms. Anna Boyce Phillips, stated that she appreciated the work of the HPC on this project. She said she grew up in Boone and she remembered the people of Boone and Watauga County as being friendly, helpful, and kind to others whether they knew them or not. She explained that she had read the proposed text for the panels, and the text portrays people to be unkind. For this reason, she

proposed there be a meeting, so the local people that grew up in Boone can tell what they remember about their life in the 1930s and 1940s in Boone. She stated that all people make mistakes and bad choices and hopefully they choose to learn from the mistakes of others and to make better choices.

The eighth speaker on the list was Ms. Kristen Baldwin-Deathridge from the Appalachian State University, History Department, and she was not able to attend the meeting.

The ninth speaker on the list was Ms. Andrea Burns from the Appalachian State University, History Department, who did not speak during public comment.

The tenth speaker, Ms. Rebecca Triplett-Johnson, stated that based on the text in the proposed panels the history of Boone had not been properly researched. She said that more time should be given to researching the history of Boone. She added that the research should not be rushed with no firm deadline given until all the people of Boone have been made aware, and allowed to be involved in all the steps of the process moving forward on this project. She stated that she looked forward to seeing the announcements in the media for future meetings on this project.

The eleventh speaker on the list was Mr. David Phillips. Ms. Mitchell said he had phoned the Planning and Inspections Department regarding public comment and he might be one of the call-in users. Mr. Phillips did not speak during public comment.

Chair Plaag closed public comment at approximately 3:45 p.m.

BOONE CEMETERY INTERPRETATIVE PANELS REVIEW

Chair Plaag explained that the HPC had discussed the cemetery for about nine years, and the HPC had discussed the cemetery panels over the past three years. He encouraged everyone to read the information in the meeting packet regarding the cemetery. He explained that the work of the HPC is done by the HPC as a whole. He listed the five Commission members that gave direct feedback on the proposed cemetery panels: Chair Plaag, Vice-Chair Bettie Bond, Member Chuck Watkins, Student Member Riley Ziegler and Former Member James Sharp who recently resigned. He pointed out that from time to time the Staff would interject with questions and comments to help clarify things in the HPC's discussion. He stated that there were some characterizations of the work on the cemetery panels being the work of one person, or there was one person who decides what is put on the cemetery panels. He explained that those characterizations are false, and that is not the process that the HPC follows.

Chair Plaag explained that as the proposed changes by members were made during the meetings, he recorded the information, would incorporate it into the draft text, and bring it back to the HPC for their review. He said this was the process that got to the cemetery panel text drafts presented in July.

Chair Plaag explained there was public feedback from the August 9, 2023, Town Council Meeting, and a variety of different emails sent to the Town Mayor, Town Council Members and Facebook groups. He pointed out that he was appreciative of the constructive feedback from Ms. Elizabeth Phillips, Mr. Terry Harmon and Ms. Jill Privott. He said some of their feedback improved the most recent revision of the cemetery panels. He noted that he had spent about 100 hours responding to some of the correspondence. He said about 60 percent of that time was spent researching claims that were not sourced and not

grounded in secondary or primary historical sources. He urged anyone with interest in the cemetery panels, and if they have sourced evidence that controverts things that have been said in the most recent cemetery panel draft, to submit that evidence to Ms. Mitchell at the Planning and Inspections Department. He said that Ms. Mitchell will include that evidence for either the Town Council or the HPC's consideration. He noted that a deadline has been set for August 25, 2023 to submit the evidence.

Chair Plaag began discussion on the complaint that there was no mention of the fact that most white people are still being buried in the historically white section of the Boone Cemetery https://boonenc.igmp2.com/Citizens/Detail_Meeting.aspx?ID=3566 by people that are descendants or relatives of the families that are already interred there. He said it was true that in the late 1930s that the trustees of the Boone Cemetery announced that it was closed to new burials but burials still occurred there. He said the concern at that time was overcrowding the Boone Cemetery. He said in 1950 the Mount Lawn Cemetery group acquired two family cemeteries on the east side of Boone, and Mount Lawn became the more common place for white people to bury their dead in Boone. He said this did not eliminate private cemeteries located outside of Boone in Watauga County.

Chair Plaag said as a part of the complaint about Mount Lawn Cemetery not being mentioned, there was an implied criticism, if not a stated criticism, that there was a clear reference to black folks being told that Clarissa Hill Cemetery would be the new location for black people in the community to be buried. He explained that as he was trying to revise the panel draft to include the Mount Lawn Cemetery, he https://boonenc.igmp2.com/Citizens/Detail_Meeting.aspx?ID=3566 realized as a historian that he had been asking the wrong question. He had been looking for the direct evidence of some Town or County action that required black people to bury their dead at Clarissa Hill after 1957 or 1958 of which he could not find a record of it. He said this is when he realized that he was framing the question the wrong way. He said that pointing out the Mount Lawn Cemetery prompted him to ask the right question which is, why are Black people not burying their dead at the Mount Lawn Cemetery. He said the articles of incorporation at the Mount Lawn Cemetery stated that the sole purpose of the cemetery was to exist for "burials of the white and Caucasian race". He clarified that Black people were not permitted to bury their dead at the place that everyone else was told to bury their dead. He said this explains why black people were suddenly burying their dead at the Clarissa Hill Cemetery, which the County had conveyed to the Black community to bury their dead. He said there were newspaper accounts for this period that state that the Clarissa Hill Cemetery was referred to as the "colored cemetery".

Chair Plaag noted that HPC Member Chuck Watkins was not in attendance at this meeting, but he had sent a communication to Ms. Mitchell to present at this meeting regarding the criticisms of the proposed Boone Cemetery panels text that had been submitted to the Town. Member Watkins in his communication suggested for the HPC to step back and re-evaluate the proposed panel text beyond simply wordsmithing before moving forward for approval.

Chair Plaag asked Vice-Chair Bond and Student Member Ziegler for their feedback on Member Watkins's communication. Vice-Chair Bond supported Member Watkin's suggestion for the HPC to step back and re-evaluate the proposed text and allow for other people to become involved, if they wanted to. She

noted that the chance for public involvement has been available for several years. Student Member Ziegler agreed with Vice-Chair Bond that the public has had many chances to become involved and give their feedback, especially over the last couple of months. She added that with the number of people that have recently voiced their discomfort in the proposed cemetery panel draft, she said another couple of months would give the public time to submit their feedback and to revise it.

Discussion ensued on how to proceed with the Boone Cemetery Panels Interpretative Panels proposed text. Chair Plaag asked Vice-Chair Bond and Student Member Ziegler how they would like to proceed with the Boone Cemetery Panels topic. He noted that there are several options on how to proceed with this topic. He hesitated to say that the HPC would table this topic until Member Watkins returned to a future meeting because his term on the Commission has expired, and we do not know for certain if he will return for a future meeting. He said that Member Watkins had indicated he would attend the meetings until his position was filled. He pointed out that an application for a position on the HPC had been submitted for Council's consideration in either September or October. He said one option is that a motion could be made to table this topic until the October regular (Advisory) HPC meeting to allow the people that have expressed concerns to submit additional documentation that further contextualizes the proposed text for the panels. He explained that another option is that the HPC could discuss what was prepared for this meeting without taking action on it, but that conversation would be extended until the next HPC meeting. He explained another option would be for the HPC to move forward at this meeting, make any final revisions, and vote on it to make a recommendation to Council. He said there was no support on this option.

Vice-Chair Bond stated that it would be better to table the Boone Cemetery Interpretative Panels discussion until the October HPC regular meeting. She said this would give more time for public input, and for Member Watkins, if possible, to attend the meeting because he has been involved in the proposed panel discussion for many years. She added that she would not want a new HPC member being involved this late in the discussion of the said panels. Chair Plaag pointed out that if there is a new HPC member appointed in September, that person would be seated for consideration on this topic, and they would have every right to participate in consideration of this topic.

Vice-Chair Bond and Student Member Ziegler agreed with tabling the Boone Cemetery Interpretative Panels discussion to the October HPC regular meeting.

Motion and Vote:

Student Member Ziegler made a motion, seconded by Vice-Chair Bond to table the Boone Cemetery Interpretative Panels discussion to the October HPC regular (Advisory) meeting to allow for more public input and for more Historic Preservation Commission members input on the proposed panels text.

Vote: Aye – All

Nay – None

The motion passed.

Chair Plaag added that the deadline to submit newly sourced data would be no later than Friday, September 22, 2023 for the October 3, 2023 meeting date so the staff can compile the data and include it into the meeting packet.

TOWN COUNCIL DIRECTION – DANA FOLK WAY

Ms. Mitchell referred to a memo on packet page 307 regarding Town Council direction for Dana Folk Way. She explained that Town Council sent this topic to the HPC for the HPC to provide direction on honoring Dana Folk along the pedestrian alleyway between King Street and Howard Street, considering this area is located in the Downtown Boone Local Historic District. The memo stated that Town Council recognized that further verification is needed for the text provided, and the images shown on packet page 308 and 309 which have the words, “Varsity Alley” either in an archway or marker within the concrete. She added to the discussion that the archway could be along the King Street side of the alleyway, and the marker within the concrete could be along the Howard Street side. She said the memo also stated that the HPC could provide revisions to the text as the HPC sees fit. She added that there was a consideration to naming the alley, Folk Way. She added that the staff would like to point out that the Public Works Department maintains the alleyway, including for snow removal, and any recommendation would need to take this into consideration.

Vice-Chair Bond voiced her concern for using the name “Folk Way.” She thought that others might think that the alleyway is where “folk walk” and not possibly know the word “Folk” was a surname. She asked if it was a possible to have signage that would include some of Mr. Folk’s service work or use the name “Dana Folk Way” for the alleyway.

Chair Plaag noted that there was at least one Town Council Member that was adamant that the full name “Dana Folk Way” be used for the alleyway. He said there was not a consensus of the Town Council to use the full name, but there was some interest shown to use the full name. He thought that other Town Council members liked the idea of it feeling inclusive of the play on Dana Folk’s last name. He said he was more compelled to support the use of the full name of Dana Folk Way. Vice-Chair Bond said that using “Folk Way” was not being respectful.

Chair Plaag said at the Town Council meeting there was some discussion of signage possibly being mounted to one of the buildings. He stated that mounting signage onto buildings creates various easement issues for the Town because those buildings are privately owned. He asked Ms. Mitchell if the sidewalks were in the Town’s right-of-way; Ms. Mitchell confirmed that the sidewalks were Town maintained. Chair Plaag said one option without blocking the fire alley is to mount a sign to either side of the driveway on the sidewalk that is basically a historical marker. He said one side of the sign could be for “Dana Folk Way” and the other side of the sign could be for “Ice House Alley,” which is what this alley was used for to get to and from the Ice House. He stated that the Ice House sat on the creek between the bus station and the building that was Portofino’s restaurant. Chair Plaag agreed with Vice-Chair Bond about having some type of signage that would contextualize not only in terms of Dana Folk, but also its historical purpose of an alleyway.

Ms. Jane Shook, Director of Planning and Inspections, voiced her concern about the type of signage that is being proposed, she pointed out that the Town tries to keep the sidewalks free. She said there is just enough space with the bollards to maintain the sidewalk. She added that any type of sign would hinder snow removal. She said that all signs in that area are required to be eight-foot high to allow for snow removal equipment. She asked the HPC if there was an option, if easements could be obtained that signage could be placed on one of the buildings. Chair Plaag responded that a COA would be required to attach a sign to one of the buildings. He explained that the property owner would probably say that they do not want to pay for the COA, the Town could pay for the HPC to review how the sign would be attached to the building.

Chair Plaag asked Ms. Shook, if a historical marker was placed in line with the parking meters would that be alright. Ms. Shook said that the Town would need to review that option, but there is a concern for making the space too tight. She stated that there had been some discussion regarding concerns for too much signage along the sidewalks. Ms. Shook added that multiple ways might need to be considered to find a way to accomplish this signage.

Student Member Ziegler asked if there was a way to put the images from the Town Council packet into the archway, and some of the history on the ground into the concrete and this would take up less space. She said she visited Belmont-Abbey College recently and she saw something similar there. Chair Plaag thought you could put "Dana Folk Way" historical information on the ground very easily. He said in terms of interpretative signage it is not a good idea to put all of that text into a sidewalk because it would create an obstruction on the sidewalk as people stopped to read the text.

Vice-Chair Bond said if you named the archway "Dana Folk Way" on King Street, it would be possible to name the Howard Street side of the alleyway "Ice House Alley." Chair Plaag agreed that could be done. Vice-Chair Bond asked if Howard Street was supposed to be a pedestrian way. Ms. Shook said Howard Street would still have vehicular access. Chair Plaag said that he had not seen the latest rendition of the Howard Street Plans. He said that there could be some bollards that might make it easier on the Howard Street end rather than the King Street end of the alleyway. He said the HPC needs to come up with a set of options on how to market what that would look like. He reviewed the options for the signage. He said one option would be to gain the easements and put the signage on the buildings, and another option is a traditional historical marker on either end of the alleyway with the different text on each side of it. Chair Plaag pointed out that the historical knowledge of the history of the alleyway has not been interpreted by the Town.

Ms. Shook pointed out that the Town Council wanted to know, if the HPC had any issues with the particular naming of the alleyway. She talked about the funding of the alleyway and the interpretative text that would be used on it. She talked about some potential work on the Queen Street stairs, and how that work could be done collaboratively with the proposed alleyway work.

Chair Plaag referred to the possibility of having an archway in the narrow alleyway and he was concerned with the clearance from a fire engine standpoint. Ms. Shook noted that with the redesign of the building,

there had to be a pedestrian path that is lighted. She added that the alley was not created for fire access. She said that the staff would confirm all of the information with the Public Works Department and the Fire Department.

Chair Plaag asked staff what does the Town Council need from the HPC at this point. Ms. Mitchell responded that they wanted the HPC's consideration on the naming of the alleyway and the aesthetics about the archway or sidewalk. She asked the HPC if they had concerns regarding a sidewalk marker being within the sidewalk. Chair Plaag said putting the alleyway name into the sidewalk would be fine, but he did not recommend putting the historical marker text into the sidewalk. Ms. Shook agreed with Chair Plaag about not putting the said text into the sidewalk because of the damage that has been experienced during the snow removal process.

Chair Plaag reminded the HPC of the photos of signage he shared that he had taken on his Montana trip. He said this might be a test run to show what that type of signage might look like, along with getting an easement on one or both of the buildings. He said this would be a chance to show the Downtown Boone Development Association (DBDA), who might be partial sponsors, what it would look like for the contributing buildings to the district.

Ms. Shook told Chair Plaag that Ms. Lane Moody, Downtown Boone Development Coordinator, had communicated to her to tell Chair Plaag that she would be brainstorming ways that the DBDA could contribute to this particular project.

Ms. Moody left the meeting at approximately 4:27 p.m.

In summary, Ms. Mitchell outlined the topics that would be reported to the Town Council, which are that the HPC agrees on naming the alleyway, the HPC is open to doing interpretative text in some form for the signage, and looking at possibilities for funding for the signage. She said she would create an action request on this topic for the Town Council's consideration at their October meeting. She added that she would contact Ms. Moody to get her ideas regarding the DBDA. Chair Plaag asked Ms. Mitchell to reword the items for the action request to say, "The HPC is seeking direction from Town Council on whether to explore signage options and their costs. He said there was consensus that the interpretative material would include "Dana Folk Alley" and the history of "Ice House Alley." He reiterated that there was HPC consensus on naming the alley, "Dana Folk Alley."

Council Liaison Roseman told Chair Plaag that she did present to Town Council the information that Chair Plaag had told the HPC regarding the panels that he saw on a building while on his trip to Montana, along with Chair Plaag's desire to try to start that program in Boone. She asked Chair Plaag if the funding was around the \$700.00 to \$750.00-dollar range. Chair Plaag replied that he did not know the dollar amount, but a broad range guess might be around \$750.00. She expressed her interest in this type of program being duplicated in Boone because it is a way to preserve the history of each building.

Council Liaison Roseman voiced her personal interest in the cream-colored building that was once an art studio beside the alleyway. She said this would be a great place to put a mural by a local artist. She suggested that the mural include Dana Folk in his various roles in the community and the rest of it would contain the history of "Ice House Alley." She told Chair Plaag that she had mentioned these panels in one of the Town Council meetings and expressed a strong appetite for them, and she hoped that this was something that could be implemented. Chair Plaag echoed what Council Liaison Roseman stated regarding a mural on the west side of that building. He said within the alley that wall is a frequent place for tagging. He added that one of the greatest ways to control graffiti would be to put a mural on that wall of the alleyway that speaks to the experience of people from all walks of life. He said that by putting something like a mural on the wall might help with the tagging issue in that alley. Student Member Ziegler pointed out that there is an entrance into the building in the alleyway, and her concern was that foot traffic might increase on the alleyway side of the building. There was consensus from the HPC for Ms. Mitchell to forward the action request to Town Council with the information discussed at this meeting.

STONEMAN'S RAID INTERPRETATIVE PANELS TEXT AND DESIGN

Ms. Mitchell referred to a memo dated August 25, 2023 on packet page 310 and explained that since the last HPC advisory meeting Chair Plaag had contacted Mr. Drew Gruber, the Executive Director for the Civil War Trails (CWT) program. Mr. Gruber had told Chair Plaag that he had found a sponsor who would cover half of the initial fee, and the annual fee of \$200.00 could also be covered for the Stoneman's Raid Interpretative panels. She said that \$1,500.00 would be needed to cover the other half of the initial fee. She said that discussion was needed to see if the HPC wanted to go with this program because they have their own guidelines regarding text and images. She said the proposed Stoneman's Raid panel met the criteria for the CWT program because the panel would be placed near the site of a historic event. She added that there are benefits of the program, including program marketing and installing Department of Transportation (DOT) signage. She explained the process for the HPC within the CWT program, which would be to submit an application with a photo of the proposed site, property owner and membership forms, and the proposed content. She said once the CWT program received the application submittal, they would review the information based on their guidelines, and Staff would send their feedback to the HPC to review, and ultimately to Town Council for their review. She wanted to know, if the HPC wanted to move forward with the CWT program, and if so, she would have to submit an action request to inform the Town Council of the HPC's recommendation to move forward with the program, and include the need for funding for the other half of the initial fee.

Chair Plaag asked the HPC members if they wanted to go through the process like the Boone Cemetery interpretative panels or if they wanted to go with the CWT program. He said if the HPC goes through the CWT program, it would cost less than what each cemetery panel would be, and you get the benefit of the program marketing. He added that people go out of their way to read the CWT markers, and it would potentially bring more pedestrian and vehicular traffic into Downtown Boone.

Chair Plaag explained that the initial request would be for the HPC to ask Town Council to commit to provide the funding needed for the CWT program. He said that the Town Council would have an opportunity to review the panel text before it went to the CWT staff to review. He mentioned that the

CWT guidelines require 275 words on their panels, and there was 326 words are in the current draft text, which would need to be reduced by 51 words. He added that the HPC would need to select locations that are feasible for the CWT panel around the Downtown Boone Post Office. He stated that the CWT program people might prefer that the panel be located on the King Street side rather than on the Depot Street side of the Post Office. Ms. Shook pointed out a possible location could be the bulb out at Linney Street and King Street. Chair Plaag agreed that the location pointed out by Ms. Shook was a great location for the panel.

Ms. Mitchell stated that if a change needed to be made to the panel, the CWT program would help with that change. She noted that she would like to know more about the advertising benefit, and if there would be a requirement from the Town for it.

Vice-Chair Bond asked if the CWT program was connected to the “Year of the Trail” that started this year. Chair Plaag and Ms. Mitchell said that they did not know the answer to that question. Council Liaison Roseman pointed out that she thought there were some other CWT markers being considered to be put in Watauga County. Chair Plaag stated that there is already a CWT marker at Camp Mast in Sugar Grove, North Carolina. He noted that the CWT representatives had some concerns about that marker and had asked if the Watauga County Historical Society would be interested in helping with revising that marker. He said in a broad sense the Watauga County Historical Society said they would help with it. Council Liaison Roseman stated that the Tourism Development Authority (TDA) might be interested in funding the marker and possibly funding the \$200.00 annual fee. She talked about the other markers and where they were located and if the Watauga County TDA and the Town TDA could work together on the funding for the markers. Chair Plaag said he would need to verify it, but there might be another marker west of Blowing Rock, North Carolina, off of Hwy 221 at a rest area near Cone Manor that discusses “The Blalocks.” Vice-Chair Bond suggested the Howard’s Knob location for a possible marker.

Ms. Shook asked about the Stoneman’s Raid marker that is near the courthouse, and how can we marry the two Stoneman’s Raid markers, and asked should they be closer together. Chair Plaag responded that the State of North Carolina would likely not be interested in relocating the marker near the courthouse.

Chair Plaag asked the HPC if they wanted to wait on considering the language since it had to be reduced by 51 words to meet the CWT guidelines and until Council has approved the CWT program for the Stoneman’s Raid panel. There was consensus from the HPC to wait on Town Council’s decision. Ms. Mitchell said she would submit an action request to Town Council for their October meeting, and she would be able to report back to the HPC by their November meeting.

Chair Plaag had not heard of any source that talked about William Riley Horton’s role or the role from other people from Watauga County fighting in Stoneman’s Raid on the Union side or the fact that people were recruited from Boone once they were here.

Council Liaison Roseman left the meeting at approximately 4:56 p.m.

R.L. CLAY (RIVERS) HOUSE LOCAL LANDMARK DESIGNATION REPORT

Ms. Mitchell said at the August HPC Advisory meeting the HPC had discussed the final draft, and asked if the HPC were ready to send it to Town Council for their review. She said if it was approved, she would start the process to send it to the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) for their review. Chair Plaag said that he had not seen the new guidance on local landmark designation reports from the SHPO that Ms. Mitchell had shared with Student Member Ziegler for the Jones House local landmark designation report. He said that he would verify that the draft report meets the information in the new guidance.

Chair Plaag asked the HPC if they had specific feedback on this draft report and was it ready to be sent to the Town Council for their review. Vice-Chair Bond and Student Member Ziegler voiced no feedback, and they were in favor of sending the draft report to the Town Council for their review.

Student Member Ziegler asked Ms. Mitchell about the standards for the R.L. Clay (Rivers) House. Ms. Mitchell responded that the staff wanted to discuss further with the HPC about including landmark properties within Appendix D, as part of the Appendix D revisions.

Ms. Mitchell suggested that the HPC send the draft report the Town Council, let them know that the standards would be forthcoming in the future for the R.L. Clay Rivers House, and standards would be incorporated into the draft revisions of Appendix D.

Motion and Vote:

Student Member Ziegler made a motion, seconded by Vice-Chair Bond for Staff to present the draft R.L. Clay (Rivers) House Local Landmark Designation Report to Town Council with the recommendation that the draft report be sent to the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) for consideration. In addition, that Chair Plaag would review the draft report and make necessary organizational changes to it.

Vote:

Aye – All

Nay – None

The motion passed.

Vice-Chair Bond made a motion, seconded by Student Member Ziegler to approve Chair Plaag to speak at the October 2023 Town Council meeting on behalf of the Historic Preservation Commission to present the R.L. Clay (Rivers) House Local Landmark Designation Report.

Vote:

Aye – All

Nay- None

The motion passed.

JONES HOUSE LOCAL LANDMARK DESIGNATION REPORT UPDATE

Ms. Mitchell explained that Student Member Ziegler had volunteered to write the draft report on the exterior of the Jones House. She pointed out that the designation would include all the elements of the house along with setting of the site, including the landscaping and sugar maple trees. She noted that she

contacted the Public Works Department to see they had any concerns with the Jones House property. She mentioned that the sugar maples on the Jones House property have had cables placed in them to help secure them to the property. She said the Public Works Department showed concern for if the cables had to be repaired on the sugar maples, what would the process be for this type of work to be completed on the Jones House property. Chair Plaag stated that he was not sure, but in the broad standards for the Streetscape standards for the historic district, there might be requirements for an arborist to preserve the resources on a property. Ms. Shook concluded that routine maintenance should cover any type of cabling issue with the sugar maples on the property.

Ms. Mitchell opened the floor for Student Member Ziegler to give an update on her work with the draft report. Student Member Ziegler explained that has been working through the architectural description and will next work on the statement of significance. Chair Plaag explained to Student Member Ziegler that it was alright to use the architectural description in the survey report, and she can do any minor modifications to reflect any recent changes that have occurred or make corrections. He added that she should cite it as “much of this description is based upon Dr. Eric Plaag and the survey report.”

Vice-Chair Bond noted that she would still like to see a change made to the Mayor Brantz Park sign located at the Jones House, and she added that this would be a future discussion.

STAFF UPDATES

Social Media Procedure

Ms. Mitchell informed the HPC members that a social media procedure had been created, and there is a form on the Town website that can be used for boards and commissions to request social media posts. She added that for HPC, social media is used for board openings and other HPC related projects. She asked that the HPC present any ideas for social media to Staff and to Advisory meetings, and that Staff would submit the form. She noted that she would work with Ms. Laney Pilkington, Administrative Support Specialist/Communications, on any social media projects.

Chair Plaag asked Ms. Mitchell if she could work on a social media post regarding the discussion on the Boone Cemetery Interpretative Panels and the September 22, 2023 deadline. He added that the post should ask for any new documentation that is specific documentation with primary or secondary sources, to validate and vet any submitted information. Ms. Mitchell added that she would work with Ms. Laney Pilkington, Administrative Support Specialist/Communications, on a graphic for it. She said she would also request this social media post to be posted more than once.

Appendix D Special HPC Meeting Update

Ms. Mitchell explained that the department office renovations would be completed by the Wednesday, September 20, 2023 for the special HPC meeting to be held in person in the Planning and Inspections Department conference room starting at 3:30 p.m. She said the staff would provide a draft Appendix D document prior to the meeting. She said some of the topics for discussion at the meeting would be minor text revisions on various topics such as new construction and landmark properties.

Statement of Conformity (SOC) Monthly Report

Ms. Christy Turner, Senior Planner stated that there was one Statement of Conformity application submitted for Speakeasy Tattoo Company located at 728 W. King Street, for a HVAC unit replacement. She said the placement of the unit is on the tertiary elevation. Chair Plaag asked if the proposed unit replacement impacted the cladding. Ms. Turner responded that the applicant was proposing mini-splits, and they would not be seen from the primary and secondary elevations from King Street.

HPC MEMBER UPDATES

Vice-Chair Bond said the Watauga County Historical Society (WCHS) was pleased to announce that Mr. Terry Harmon, local author and historian, would be presenting on his forthcoming book, *Convolutd: The 1972 Durham Family Triple Homicide* at the Watauga County Library on Wednesday, September 6, 2023 at 5:30 p.m.

OCTOBER ADVISORY SESSION MATERIAL

Chair Plaag suggested that the following topics be included in the next advisory session agenda: Boone Cemetery Interpretative Panels, and Jones House Local Landmark Designation Report Update.

Ms. Mitchell added that the following items would be presented at the October Town Council meeting, with updates to the HPC at the November Advisory meeting: R.L. Clay Rivers House Local Landmark Designation Report Update, Stoneman's Raid Interpretative Panels Text and Design Update, and Dana Folk Way.

OTHER DISCUSSION

There was no other discussion at this meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

Student Member Ziegler made a motion, seconded by Vice-Chair Bond, to adjourn the meeting at 5:27 p.m.

Vote: Aye – All
Nay – None
The motion passed.

Eric Plaag, Chair

Marlene Crosby, Board Secretary