



Randolph County Historic Landmark Preservation Commission

204 East Academy St. ♦ P.O. Box 771 ♦ Asheboro, North Carolina 27204

June 25, 2008

The Randolph County Historic Landmark Preservation Commission (HLPC) met in its first session at 2:00 p.m. in the Commissioners Training Room, County Office Building, 725 McDowell Road, Asheboro, NC. Hal Johnson, Chairman; Fran Andrews, Vice Chairman; Robby Davis; Bill Ivey; Bill Johnson; Mac Whatley; Warren Dixon; Lynne Qualls; Donna Hall and Robyn Hankins, Alternate; were present.

Chairman Johnson called the meeting to order and proceeded with roll call. He asked each member to tell something about themselves and what ties their involvement to this commission. After the introductions, Chairman Johnson made some key points about the Commission and after some discussion; the Commission decided that public education of history would play an important part of this Commission.

Bill Johnson added that if anyone was interested he should check out “Sword of Peace” and “Pathway to Freedom” in Snow Camp as they involve stories about history in this area.

Oath of Office

Amanda Varner, Deputy Clerk to the Randolph County Board of Commissioners administered the oath of office to appointed Historical Landmark Preservation Commission members.

A Word from the County Manager

County Manager Richard Wells requested to speak at this time and stated that he wanted to congratulate everyone and thank them for volunteering for this Commission.

Chairman Johnson said that it was a real pleasure to have a County Manager with the background Mr. Wells has, because he supports what the Commission will be doing and understands the big picture that is involved.

Role of State Historic Preservation Office and Local Historic Preservation Commissions

Chairman Johnson introduced Mary Hanbury, Local Government Coordinator, N.C. Historic Preservation Office in the N.C. Office of Archives and History. Mr. Johnson said Ms. Hanbury would speak to the Commission concerning the role of the State Historic Preservation Office and its relationship to local Historic Preservation Commissions. Mr. Johnson stated that Ms. Hanbury would also address some of the standards required for the HLPC to become a Certified Local Government Program; Ms. Hanbury’s office will be involved in that process.

Ms. Hanbury stated that the N.C. Historic Preservation Office puts a high priority on administrative and technical support and assistance to local commissions. Her office is not a governing office, but an advisory arm and works with county and municipality commissions on preservation. She reviewed what her office can assist with and how they are involved in the process of designation. A commission is required by law to send a historical landmark request to the N.C. Historical Preservation Office for their comments and recommendations, but the commission does not have to act upon the response.

Ms. Hanbury stated the Certified Local Government program was established as part of this partnership between the Federal government and State, realizing there needed to be a third leg of that partnership to local governments. She stated that a commission may apply to be a certified local government after being established for one year and having designated at least one historical landmark. Local governments can strengthen their local historic preservation efforts by achieving Certified Local Government (CLG) status from the National Park Service (NPS). NPS and State governments, through their State Historic Preservation Offices (SHPOs), provide valuable assistance and small matching grants to communities whose local governments are endeavoring to keep what is significant from their community's past for those in the future. In turn, NPS and States gain the benefit of local government partnership in the national historic preservation program. Another incentive for participating in the CLG program is the matching grant funds SHPOs set aside to fund CLG historic preservation sub-grant projects--at least 10% of the State's annual Historic Preservation Fund (HPF) grant allocation from the Federal government. Grant funds are distributed through the HPF grant program and administered by NPS and SHPOs. A commission must function as a Certified Local Government for a year before it can be eligible for the grant funds set aside for CLGs. The Office tries to make sure that the grants are geographically diverse as well as having various types of projects.

Mr. Johnson stated that the Ordinance creating the Historic Landmark Preservation Commission provides the opportunity for interlocal agreements between Randolph County and municipalities. Without interlocal agreements, the jurisdiction of the HLPC will stop at municipal planning jurisdiction. The opportunity for municipalities to work with the HLPC will provide many opportunities in working together for historic landmark designation and preservation. There was discussion among the Commission members as to what authority the local municipal governing boards would have in the final designations. Johnson said the final authority could be the County Commissioners, or the local municipality governing board, depending on the individual interlocal agreement. Several members mentioned that the final authority for designation should rest with the local elected officials. Johnson said that the final interlocal agreements might reflect that the HLPC is an advisory body to the participating municipality. The Commission would identify a proposed Landmark and then drafts a proposed Ordinance and hold a public hearing. The Commission would then make a recommendation to the municipal governing body that could adopt the Landmark designation as proposed by the Commission, adopt amendments, or reject the proposed designation. The final authority for any Landmark designation within a municipal planning jurisdiction would rest with the elected board of the participating municipality. Johnson said the Commission would have a "draft" interlocal agreement for review at its next meeting. The agreement would then be forwarded to the County Commissioners for final approval prior to extending invitations to municipalities.

Ms. Hanbury then responded to general questions from the Commission members in regards to which direction they should be looking toward as their next step to making some designations. She suggested working from the National Registry and N.C. Registry of Historical Landmarks would be a good place to start since a lot of the work has already been completed. She also suggested a yearly retreat to prepare a list of potential landmarks.

(Bill Ivey left the meeting at this time.)

Review & Approval of Commission By-Laws and Rules of Procedure

Due to the time, Mr. Johnson asked the board to review the By-Laws and Rules of Procedure for approval at the next meeting.

Review & Approval of Landmark Designation Application

Mr. Johnson presented the Landmark Designation application and asked the Commission to also look it over, for possible approval at the next meeting.

Establish Regular Meeting Time & Date

In a discussion about setting a regular meeting time and date, the Commission decided on the fourth Wednesday of each month at 2:00 p.m. The next meeting will be July 23rd.

Commission Comments/Discussion

Mr. Johnson asked if everyone could research and bring ideas on types of signs they would like to use for a landmark designation for discussion at the next meeting.

Adjournment

At 3:55 p.m., there being no further business, Fran Andrews made a motion to adjourn and Bill Johnson seconded. Motion carried.

Hal Johnson, Chairman

Amanda W. Varner, Deputy Clerk
Randolph County Board of Commissioners