



## Randolph County Historic Landmark Preservation Commission

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

**March 12, 2014**

### **Special Joint Meeting with Randolph County Board of Commissioners**

The Randolph County Historic Landmark Preservation Commission (HLPC) met for a special meeting at Richard Petty Museum, 311 Branson Miller Road, Randleman, NC. The purpose of this special joint meeting was to hold a joint public hearing with the Randolph County Board of Commissioners to consider local historic landmark designation of the site of the exterior of the original site of Petty Enterprises, ca. 1949, including the A-frame reaper shed and original race shop and engine rooms used and constructed from approximately 1951 to 1964. Also included in the local landmark designation is the exterior of the Toomes - Petty home place, construction ca. 1925, where Richard & Maurice were born.

Members of the HLPC present were Hal Johnson, Chairman; Bill Johnson; Bill Ivey; Lynne Qualls; Marsha Haithcock; Mac Whatley; Nan Kemp and Warren Dixon.

Others present were Randolph County Commissioners Harold Holmes, Darrell Frye, Stan Haywood, Phil Kemp and Arnold Lanier, as well as, County Manager Richard Wells, Assistant County Manager/Finance Officer Will Massie, Associate County Attorney Aimee Scotton and Cheryl Ivey, Clerk to the Board. Representatives of Petty Enterprises, including Richard Petty, were also present.

At 6:15 p.m., HLPC Chairman Johnson called the meeting to order on behalf of the HLPC.

Randolph County Board of Commissioners Chairman Harold Holmes called the meeting to order on behalf of the County.

Chairman Johnson recognized Petty Museum Board Of Directors: Richard Petty, Rebecca Petty Moffitt, Lisa Petty Luck, Winston Kelly, State Senator Jerry Tillman, Reynolds Lisk and Bob Wilhoit, and Museum Director Mac Whatley. Chairman Johnson also recognized Tourism Development Authority Members: Tammy O'Kelley, Director of Tourism; Mary Joan Pugh; Stacy Senters; Rebecca Moffitt; David Caughron; and Gail Morgan; and Randleman Mayor Bucky Jernigan.

Chairman Johnson welcomed those present and explained the purpose of the joint meeting was for consideration of a local landmark designation and stated that this was the first joint public hearing of the County Commissioners and Historic Landmark Preservation Commission. A designation signifies official recognition of the site as important to the heritage and character of the County.

Chairman Johnson summarized a proclamation, that the Board of County Commissioners adopted in 2007 honoring Petty Enterprises, saying that it best describes their significance to the Randolph County community: "Petty Enterprises has been a distinctive presence in Randolph County since its inception in 1949, and the racing accomplishments of the Petty Family are unprecedented in the racing industry. Petty Enterprises and Richard Petty have brought honor

and recognition to Randolph County through the role of goodwill ambassador for racing fans around the world. The Petty name and family legacy is synonymous with commitment, family, community, dedication, innovations, and leadership.”

Chairman Johnson introduced Mac Whatley, Petty Museum Director and Historic Landmark Preservation Commission member.

Mr. Whatley stated that this was the 20<sup>th</sup> landmark to be recommended for designation and explained the significance of its historical value. The Toomes-Petty House, circa 1925, is the house where Richard and Maurice were born and raised. The original bungalow home was built by R.V. “Bob” and Allie Toomes and took as many as five years to build. Lee and Elizabeth Toomes Petty lived with her parents and Maurice and Richard were born in the west side second floor bedroom.

To the east of the house is where the dirt floor, gable-roofed “Reaper Shed” is located. It is where the neighborhood travelling reaper could be parked when it arrived for harvest time; otherwise it was used to store the family tractor. By 1951, some of the cars were being built in the “Reaper Shed,” which had added a concrete floor poured by Lee and his sons, Richard and Maurice. It was added onto in 1956 and 1957. It was the Petty Engineering garage and workshop when 21-year-old Richard Petty went from building race cars to driving race cars in 1958. It was expanded again in 1958 and 1966 and grew into Petty Enterprises.

At 6:27 p.m., Chairman Johnson opened the joint public hearing on behalf of the HLPC.

Commissioner Chairman Holmes opened the public hearing on behalf of the Board of County Commissioners.

Tammy O’Kelley, Director of Tourism for the Randolph County Tourism Development Authority, spoke in support of the landmark designation. She pointed out how Richard Petty is one that is highly identifiable in the United States, North Carolina and Randolph County. Ms. O’Kelley said that in her many years with the organization Richard has always been willing to promote Randolph County in whatever manner he could, saying that “he cares about this county and he cares about the tourism industry.” Having Richard Petty’s support was very important in the TDA’s quest to promote Randolph County. Ms. O’Kelley said that Richard Petty has never refused to help when asked. She mentioned his starring role in the Disney-Pixar film “Cars” broadened his exposure to a whole new generation of Petty fans and the TDA took every advantage of that popularity to bring people to Randolph County. She also noted his extraordinary treatment of his fans: signing autographs, shaking hands, posing for photos; doing it all with a smile and a rare sincerity. In conclusion, Ms. O’Kelley said on behalf of the Board of Directors, the TDA “wholeheartedly endorses and supports the historic landmark designation.”

Winston Kelley, Executive Director of NASCAR Hall of Fame in Charlotte, NC, spoke in favor of the designation, stating that what Richard and his family have done at this location goes far beyond the statistics, but what makes it so significant is the following: Petty Enterprises’ 268 wins and 10 championships; Richard’s personal records of 200 Cup race wins, seven-time Cup drivers championships and seven-time Daytona 500 winner; Maurice’s 212 premier series wins and eight Daytona 500’s; Dale Inman’s 193 premier wins and eight championships; Lee’s 54 wins and the first three-time premier series champion; and all four of whom have been inducted into the NASCAR Hall of Fame.

Mr. Kelley stated that what was most incredible about Richard, the Petty family and the Petty Enterprises organization is not what they have done in NASCAR or in North Carolina, but what they have done for NASCAR and, in turn, for Randolph County and North Carolina. He said that it started from these very humble beginnings in Level Cross and grew to NASCAR becoming a multi-billion dollar industry known world-wide, with a six billion dollar impact in North Carolina alone and on an annual basis. He said that Richard himself is a walking, talking, tourist attraction and a historic landmark in his own right, and that it was most fitting that Petty Enterprises and the Toomes-Petty home place receive this local historic landmark designation.

Darrell Frye, Randolph County Commissioner, reflected on how Richard Petty encouraged him during the years they served together as County Commissioners. He often sought Richard's opinion on many issues, including the construction of the Randleman Lake. Commissioner Frye also told stories about Richard while he was a County Commissioner: Richard never turned down a request for an autograph, which demonstrated his unwavering devotion to his fans. He said that Richard was always willing to offer his celebrity status to help his community and consistently conducted himself in a professional, courteous and respectful manner. He said that this landmark designation was one small way to thank the Petty Family for what they mean to this state and county.

Hearing no further comments, Commissioner Chairman Holmes closed the public hearing on behalf of the County.

Chairman Johnson closed the public hearing on behalf of the HLPC.

#### **Adoption of Resolution Approving Support for Landmark Designation**

*On motion of Ivey, seconded by Dixon, the HLPC voted unanimously to approve the request for local landmark designation and the resolution of support for the Randolph County Board of Commissioners' designation by ordinance of Petty Enterprises as a historic landmark, as follows:*

#### ***Resolution Recommending Local Historic Landmark Designation Site of Petty Enterprises, ca. 1949***

**WHEREAS**, Chapter 160A, Article 19, Part 3C of the North Carolina General Statutes provide for the designation of Local Historic Landmarks; and

**WHEREAS**, the Randolph County Historic Landmark Preservation Commission has taken into consideration all information in the Historic landmark designation application and history submitted; and

**WHEREAS**, the N.C. Department of Cultural Resources, State Historic Preservation Office, has been given the opportunity to review the historical data and commented that the report contains sufficient information for the determination of Local Historic Landmark status; and

**WHEREAS**, the Randolph County Historic Landmark Preservation Commission has conducted the required public hearing in a joint session with the Randolph County Board of Commissioners, with published legal notices with mailings to adjoining property owners; and

**WHEREAS**, the Randolph County Historic Landmark Preservation Commission finds that the site of Petty Enterprises meets the following specific criteria outlined in the adopting Ordinance establishing the Commission: (1) the site of Petty Enterprises is a critical part of Randolph County's heritage by having value as an example of the cultural, economic, historic, and social heritage of Randolph County; (2) the site of Petty Enterprises provides a unique and distinctive location, which represents an established

*and familiar visual presence in Randolph County; and (3) the site is associated with the Petty family and its special legacy, which has significantly contributed to the cultural, economic, social, and historic development of Randolph County; and*

***WHEREAS***, *the property is more specifically described as follows:*

*The exteriors of the original Petty Race Shop and related buildings reflected on the official site map maintained by the County Planning Department as buildings # 2,,3 4, and 5, which total approximately 11,000 sq. ft. out of a 30.46 acre tract, PIN# 7768217086, and the exterior of the Toomes-Lee Petty home place, ca. 1925, reflected on the official site plan as building #1 which consists of approximately 1700 sq. ft. out of a 3.4 acre tract, PIN# 7767295719, located at 311 Branson Mill Road, Randleman, Level Cross Township, Randolph County, N.C.*

***NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED***, *this 12 day of March, 2014, in joint session with the Randolph County Board of Commissioners, that the above referenced site of Petty Enterprises be designated as a Randolph County Local Historic Landmark*

The Board of Commissioners unanimously adopted an ordinance designating the site of Petty Enterprises as a local historic landmark.

Commissioner Chairman Holmes and HLPC Chairman Johnson, on behalf of both boards, presented a landmark plaque to Richard Petty and family.



Both Richard Petty and Rebecca Petty Moffitt spoke and expressed their appreciation for the designation.

At 6:50 p.m., there being no further business, the meeting was adjourned by the HLPC.

The Randolph County Board of Commissioners adjourned.

A ribbon cutting was then held at the Petty Museum and tours of the property were available.

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Hal Johnson, Chairman

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Amanda Varner, Clerk to the HLPC

