TOWN OF BOONE
HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
July 9, 2024, 3:00 p.m.
Planning & Inspections Department & WebEx Video Conferencing

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

Council Liaison: Virginia Roseman (via WebEx)

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

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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 3:00 p.m.

Adoption of Agenda

Vice-Chair Bond made a motion, seconded by Chair Smyth, to adopt the agenda as presented.

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

Approval of Meeting Minutes

Vice-Chair Bond made a motion, seconded by Chair Smyth, to approve the May 7, 2024, May 28, 2024, and the June 4, 2024, HPC meeting minutes.

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

Vice-Chair Bond expressed concern that the unsightly white Drip Coffee sign mentioned in the June 11, 2024, meeting minutes had not been removed and asked that Staff follow up on it.

Vice-Chair Bond made a motion, seconded by Chair Smyth, to approve the June 11, 2024, HPC meeting minutes.

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

Jones House Local Historic Landmark Report

Riley Ziegler, a former HPC member, stated that while she was in town, she would try to meet with Dr. Plaag to work on the Jones House Local Historic Landmark report. She said that she would start grad school in August and planned to try to get a seat on the Miami Historic Preservation Society. Although she would be very busy, Ms. Ziegler stated she was determined to finish the report. She noted that the citations were all now in the Chicago Manual of Style and were all the same font size. Ms. Ziegler stated that she had researched Dr. Jones' personal life to add some information to the historical background

section about ways he contributed to the Town of Boone. An aerial photo of the Town of Boone before the Watch Boone Grow campaign started has been included on packet page 29 of the report. Ms. Ziegler noted that information would be included about how Boone Drug and the Jones House were similar because the buildings were built by the same architect, Harold Levinson.

Ms. Ziegler stated that the photos had been formatted, and descriptions had been written for all of them. A tax map, boundary map, and site plan have been included. She noted that she was trying to meet with Greta Browning at the ASU Library to look at Dr. Jones' journals from when he was a doctor in Boone.

Ms. Ziegler stated that she planned to put all the descriptions on the pictures, finish the architectural description, and talk to Dr. Plaag about the historical background. She hoped the next draft in August would be the final draft.

Ms. Mitchell explained that once Ms. Ziegler had the final draft, the HPC would review it and send it to Town Council for them to approve Staff sending the report to SHPO. She stated that the designation would probably go to the November Public Hearing.

Ms. Ziegler noted that she had some friends who would be freshmen majoring in history, and she encouraged them to apply for a position on the HPC.

HPC Recommendation of Chair and Vice-Chair Positions

Vice-Chair Bond stated that she had talked with several people about becoming members of the Commission, but no one had been able to commit. She wished HPC members did not have to live within town limits and asked Council Member Roseman if the Town Council would consider that possibility. Council Member Roseman replied that if board members did not live inside the Town, they may not truly think of their decisions' future impact on the Boone residents. Chair Smyth suggested allowing people who worked or owned property in Town to be on the Commission. Council Member Roseman stated that she would try to mention this topic at tomorrow's Town Council meeting to get their feedback and the Town Attorney's guidance regarding the legalities of out-of-town residents being board members.

Chair Smyth made a motion to recommend that Bettie Bond continue as Vice-Chair. Vice-Chair Bond seconded the motion.

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

Vice-Chair Bond made a motion to recommend that Vardell Smyth continue as Chair. Chair Smyth seconded the motion.

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

Stoneman's Raid Interpretative Panel

Ms. Mitchell noted that the Town Council suggested changes to the panel text that was presented to them in the meeting packet. She stated that after the HPC made the changes today, she would take the revised text back to the Council for approval. Ms. Mitchell noted that Dr. Plaag had suggested several resources containing information about Stoneman's Raid, which she would email to Commission members.

After a lengthy discussion, the text was revised, and the following final draft will be presented to the Town Council.

STONEMAN'S RAID

Riding from the west on the morning of March 28th, 1865, the first of almost 6,000 of General Stoneman's Union Cavalry, led by Maj Myles Keogh's 12th Kentucky Union Volunteer Cavalry entered the town, which had a population less than 1,000.

They surprised the Confederate Home Guard, who had been assembled at the James W. Councill House, which stood directly in front of you. They fired on the advancing Union Cavalry who returned fire, quickly ending the conflict with many remaining Home Guard fleeing toward Howard's Knob. Ultimately two Home Guard were killed, five injured, and 68 taken prisoner. Stoneman's forces, which included at least 13 Union loyalists from Watauga and surrounding counties, reported no casualties.

Union Cavalry continued to pour into town for the rest of the day, with Gen Stoneman requisitioning the Councill house for his headquarters.

Most of Stoneman's cavalry quickly moved out of the mountains, with orders to avoid battles, and "dismantle the country," destroying rail lines and materials that could be used by the then retreating Confederate Army, and to liberate Union Prisoners held in the Confederate prison in Salisbury.

On April 6th, Col. George W. Kirk's 2nd and 3rd NC Mounted Infantry arrived and occupied Boone for several weeks, with orders to blockade Deep, Sampson, and Watauga Gaps to control major routes through the mountains.

Three Union soldiers of the 3rd NC Mounted Infantry who died from disease are buried at the Boone Cemetery, half a mile southeast.

Staff Updates

Town Council Updates

Ms. Mitchell stated that the Town Council voted to proceed with the Boone Cemetery panels at its May 21, 2024, meeting. The panels were ordered and received at Public Works a couple of weeks ago. Vice-Chair Bond suggested holding a ceremony after the installation. Ms. Mitchell noted that the "Rules" sign also needed to be created and installed.

At the June 12, 2024, meeting, the Town Council approved the Hellbender mural following HPC's recommendations. On June 26, 2024, the Town Council approved the R.L. Clay (Rivers House) Property and the H.W. Horton Building as Local Historic Landmarks. Ms. Mitchell stated that the next steps would be for the Staff to get the ordinance signed, record the ordinance at the Register of Deeds, notify the Tax Office, and send documentation to SHPO.

Statement of Conformity Report

Ms. Mitchell noted the report in the meeting packet that showed applications for Statements of Conformity received since September 2023. She stated that the requests for Ram's Rack, Espresso News, and Town Hall had been approved.

Council Member Roseman asked Ms. Mitchell if HPC members had been notified that the Town Council was considering designations for the Daniel Boone Amphitheater, Hickory Ridge, and the Daniel Boone Gardens. Ms. Mitchell replied that HPC members had not been informed of this possibility.

HPC Member Updates

Vice-Chair Bond read a thank you letter from former Commission member Chuck Watkins.

Other Discussion

Ms. Mitchell stated that the next meeting of the HPC was an advisory meeting scheduled for August 6, 2024. She noted that there were no quasi-judicial cases for the August 13, 2024, meeting, so that meeting would be canceled.

The 3:00 p.m. start time of meetings was discussed. Vice-Chair Bond and Chair Smyth agreed that it worked well with their schedules. Vice-Chair Bond stated that evenings would be difficult for her.

ADJOURNMENT

Vice-Chair Bond made a motion, seconded by Chair Smyth, to adjourn the meeting at 4:37 p.m.

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

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Vardell Smyth, Chair **Brenda Henson, Board Clerk**