

MINUTES

WRIGHTSVILLE BEACH HISTORIC LANDMARK COMMISSION

Monday, March 8, 2010

3:30 p.m.

COUNCIL CHAMBERS OF TOWN HALL
321 CAUSEWAY DRIVE, WRIGHTSVILLE BEACH, N.C.

Members Present

Madam Chairperson Marjorie Way
Susan Snider
Catherine O'Quinn
Wright Holman

Members Absent

Sandra Files

Others Present

Eryn Moller, Planner I – Code Enforcement

Call to Order by Chairperson

Madam Chairperson Way called the meeting to order at 3:30pm

Approval of Minutes: January 11, 2010

Commission Member Snider made a motion to approve the minutes as submitted and Commission Member Holman seconded the motion. All were in favor with a 4-0 vote.

Old Business

A. Presentation of the New Trolley Stop Marker

(Beginning of Staff Memorandum)

Background:

The Trolley Stop Marker located at the Carolina Yacht Club had been missing for some time. The Historic Landmark Commission members voted at the January 11, 2010 meeting to hire Susan Tharin to make a replacement marker. The marker is complete and ready for approval.

(End of Staff Memorandum)

A brief discussion among members about the original location of the marker took place. Madam Chairperson Way said that she was pleased with the new marker and would be anxious to have it back in its place.

B. Discussion of Goals for the Historic Landmark Commission

Ms. Moller said that at the January 11, 2010 Commission meeting Mr. Wilson had asked the Commission to come up with a few goals each member would like to see completed in the next year or in the near future.

Madam Chairperson Way said that they did discuss goals for the Historic Landmark Commission and that she would like to continue to discuss this item. She mentioned going to visit the historically designated sites and Historic Appropriated sites to take pictures for the website or for the file. Madam Chairperson again said that she would like the members to go visit the sites.

Commission Member Holman asked if we knew how many historically designated homes are on the beach. Ms. Moller said that she thought there were approximately 23 but she had the master list in her office. Commission Member Holman asked how these homes were identified or recognized. He also asked if we knew how many homes would qualify for historic designation. Ms. Moller said that each of the homes was approved by the Town and the State for local historic designation, but she did not think that the recognition went all the way to the federal level.

Madam Chairperson Way agreed with Ms. Moller and asked Commission Member Holman if that was a goal he would like to add to the Commission's list.

Commission Member Holman said that he would like to know at a glance the number of homes that could qualify.

Madam Chairperson Way said that it would be a goal added to the list and then mentioned that some of the homes have placards distinguishing them as designated homes and some do not. Madam Chairperson Way asked what the regulations were regarding placing placards on historically designated homes. Ms. Moller said that there is no stipulation in the ordinances that require a homeowner post a placard and the Town does not provide each home a placard.

Commission Member Holman asked if the homeowner received the tax breaks and if there was a way to require each home to have a placard. Ms. Moller said that the requirement would have to be incorporated into the ordinance.

Madam Chairperson Way asked Nancy Faye Craig, in the audience, if in the past the Commission had discussed this requirement.

Ms. Craig said that they had discussed this issue. She mentioned that the Historic Appreciation Program is not recognized by the State, however the Historical Designation is. Ms. Craig said that the ordinance as written made placing a placard on each designated home voluntary because the expense was the burden of the homeowner and could be fairly expensive.

A discussion took place about the requirement of a placard and whether it was offensive to ask homeowners to bear that cost.

Madam Chairperson Way suggested discussing this further and adding that to the goals list. She also asked if any other members had a goal in mind.

Commission Member Snider said that the goals mentioned previously would keep the Commission busy.

Ms. Moller mentioned that an inventory of all the homes that could qualify for Historic Designation may be difficult due to the fact that homeowners are able to renovate the interiors. These renovations may not be in line with Historic Designation requirements.

Commission Member Holman said that it could be an at a glance inventory just to get a rough estimate of old houses.

Commission Member Snider asked if a letter could be sent to those homeowners suggesting the Historic Designation process. She also asked how old the homes have to be to be considered for designation.

Madam Chairperson Way confirmed that a home must be 50 years old to be designated.

Ms. Moller said that she would provide a list of the goals at the May 10, 2010.

New Business

A. Discussion of Granting Opportunities for Historic Landmark Commissions

(Beginning of Staff Memorandum)

Background:

The Planning Staff is researching possible local funding opportunities to assist the Town's preservation initiatives.

Possible Projects to be funded:

1. Preparing the Historic Square for the relocation of a historic home.
2. To fund the relocation of a historic home to the Historic Square.

Requested Action:

Discuss funding opportunities and brainstorm possible projects.

(Ending of Staff Memorandum)

Commission Member Snider suggested looking at funding for the placards for the Historically Designated homes.

Commission Member Holman suggested funding educational/materials.

Madam Chairperson Way asked if the funding sources were found online. Ms. Moller said that a large packet of granting opportunities was received from Marlow & Company, Government Affairs Consultants. She said that this packet spurred her to think of local funding.

A brief discussion ensued about the Historic Square and the necessity of homes for the newly created lots, the size of the homes desired and the preparation of the lots.

Comments from Public

Ms. Craig asked if Ms. Moller had a copy of the Original Walking Tour Brochure which was created in 1996. Ms. Moller said that she was sure that she could find a copy in the files.

Ms. Craig also said that as far as education the Media personnel do a fine job of informing the public and that they had done an article about the designation process. She also said that all the Trolley Stop Markers were elevated and uniform. She said that it would be very difficult for a skateboarder to damage and that at one time a vehicle damaged it.

Other Business from the Chairperson

Madam Chairperson Way thanked the press for their time and articles regarding Wrightsville Beach.

Marimar from the Lumina News mentioned that the Historic Wilmington Foundation is requesting nominations for its Most Threatened Places List. She said that at one time the entire historic district of Wrightsville Beach was on that list. She went on to say that it doesn't matter if you are on the list. However, it could bring attention to the Commission and the historic homes on the Island. There is a deadline to submit a nomination but she was unsure of that date. These could be threatened due to commercial encroachment, rezoning, pending ordinance revisions, neglect, etc.

Other Business from Commission Members

Commission Member Snider asked if a Town Hall Day was planned for 2010, and if so the Commission could have an informational booth. Ms. Moller said that she was unsure if one was scheduled but she would find out.

Commission Member Holman asked if the commission was short a member. Ms. Moller said that the Board of Aldermen was waiting for an applicant to fill Mr. Holman's seat due to him being elected to the Planning Board.

Other Business from Staff

None

Adjournment

With no further business Madam Chairperson Way adjourned the meeting at 3:53pm.

Respectfully submitted
By
Eryn K. Moller, Planner 1- Code Enforcement