

**PLANNING AND
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT**

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**TRANSYLVANIA COUNTY JOINT HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION (JHPC)
MINUTES
August 13, 2019, 4:00 PM**

I. Call to Order, JHPC Chair, Rebecca Suddeth:

Chair, Rebecca Suddeth called the meeting to order. Members attending were Vice Chair Melanie Spreen, Betty Runion, Molly Jenkins, Nancy Henderson, and Jeffrey Mills. Staff members present were Planning & Community Development Director, Jason Stewart, and Interim Planner, Kate Hayes. Board member Ellen Pratt Harris was excused and Vera Taylor was absent. Dr. Michael Ann Williams joined the meeting to provide an update on the Historic Preservation Fund Grant Project.

Board members introduced themselves. Rebecca Suddeth is the Chair of the Board; she represents the Town of Rosman and works for the Heritage Museum as well as the museum at Silvermont. She also serves on the cemetery board. Jeff Mills has a general knowledge on historic preservation and volunteers for the history room at the Transylvania County library. He was previously involved with Preservation NC in Raleigh. Molly Jenkins is a resident of Brevard and lives in a home with a historic designation so she has gone through that process personally. Nancy Henderson lives in Quebec and is originally from the area and is interested in local history. Melanie Spreen works for Domokur Architects and has a background in historical preservation; she is an architectural historian and has worked with adapted reuse. She worked previously as a historic preservation consultant and is currently a board member for the Heart of Brevard through the NC Main Street program. Jason Stewart is the new Planning and Community Development Director. He is from VA and has worked in the Richmond area enforcing the historic district standards. Kate Hayes is the interim planner in the Planning and Community Development Department, with the county under a fellowship program through the NC Association of County Commissioners. Dr. Michael Ann Williams has been working on the African American survey of cultural resources in our community; she is a retired teacher in historic preservation as well as folklore. She has completed comprehensive plans for nearby counties through the Mountain Heritage Center at Western Carolina University. Betty Runion is a Friend of Silvermont and a member of AAUW (The American Association of University Women).

- II. Approval of Agenda and Minutes:** Melanie Spreen moved to approve the August 13, 2019, agenda as presented. Molly Jenkins seconded the motion and it was carried unanimously. Nancy Henderson moved to approve the previous meeting minutes (June 11, 2019) as presented. Molly Jenkins seconded the motion and it was carried unanimously.

III. Old Business

CLG Grant – Ellen Pratt Harris gave an overview of the CLG (Certified Local Government) Grant at the previous meeting.

Dr. Michael Ann gave an update on the progress of her work to survey the African American communities in Transylvania County. She has been working on the project since May of 2019 and the final deliverables are due September 1st. She has submitted a draft report to Annie McDonald with the SHPO Western Office that includes documentation of 89 new properties and updates to 14 previously surveyed properties from the 1990's survey. The final presentation will need to be discussed with the CLG subcommittee before dates are decided, but there will be a chance for input from JHPC members.

- Documentation
 - They have completed intensive surveys of Brevard neighborhoods that are older than 1975
 - There was also documentation on the Glade Creek and French Broad areas
 - Edith Daugherty was able to identify all 75 properties located in Brevard, which means that each property was identified by a family name
 - Resurveyed a property in Dunn's Rock reported to be a previous slave cabin, but they won't be able to confirm without additional archaeological resources
 - All African American cemeteries and churches in county were documented
 - 6 servant's quarters in Cedar mountain were documented (4 were previously documented properties)
- Oral history interviews
 - 13 people have been interviewed and full transcriptions will be available
 - Those oral histories will go to the Transylvania County Library local history room and they will also be available with the Office of Archives and History in Raleigh

Michael Ann stated that at first there was some reluctance to be interviewed and about oral history, but they attempted to go through community members as well as sign release paperwork for the information to be available publicly. Michael Ann brought buttons to distribute to the group that they had made for the Rosenwald block party earlier in the year as part of the community building process during group interviews.

- Presentation
 - The presentation will probably take place in late September at the Marvis Education Center once confirming with the CLG subcommittee
 - This location is a public space close to the communities surveyed
- There was discussion about the JHPC Annual Report to the Board of Commissioners and the CLG grant will be a substantial portion of that report later in October
- Michael Ann mentioned she would be able to assist because she lives relatively close in Franklin, NC
- We are currently waiting to hear comments from Annie McDonald from the SHPO Western Regional Office

According to Michael Ann, the grant needs to be closed out October 1st in order to receive funding from the National Park Service. Publishing the study would require an additional grant.

IV. New Business:

A. Strategic Plan – Review

- i. Rebecca addressed the commission stating that since the strategic plan was adopted in 2017 that we should review the medium term goals
- ii. Inventory
 1. The commission is in the midst of an architectural survey, meeting the goal of seeking grant funding
- iii. Designation
 1. The commission was unsure of any work completed with the Blue Ridge Heritage Trail and this continues to remain a medium term goal

2. Although the commission had looked at working with the Greystone Inn, there have not been any additional properties designated as either national or local historic landmarks
- iv. Partnerships
 1. The commission is receiving indirect funding from the National Park Service for the CLG grant
- v. Stewardship/Education/Advocacy
 1. Historic building management
 - a. The commission has brought in representatives from the state to talk about the technical aspects of preservation and the types of treatment for homes and how to apply specific standards
 - b. The group has discussed keeping a survey of designated properties and conducting interviews with homeowners and businesses aware of the designation process
 - c. There have also been several opportunities to make decisions about Certificates of Appropriateness
- vi. Housekeeping
 1. There has not been a recent CLG training in Transylvania County, but members have attended other trainings. Jeff Mills attended a seminar in Wrightsville Beach through Preservation North Carolina. Rebecca had been to a training on quasi-judicial processes. There is an upcoming CLG training in Waynesville on August 23rd for the NC western region. Members thought there had been a training in Transylvania County around 2016.
- vii. Membership
 1. Several new members were recently sworn in and are qualified and willing to learn
- viii. Education and Advocacy
 1. Throughout the past several years, the commission has held meetings that any historic organization or preservation group can share and promote their own work. This encourages collaboration and partnerships throughout the community. This is very helpful in an area with limited resources.
 2. Community centers
 - a. The CLG grant can be included as a presentation with the community center. The commission has also attended meetings at Cedar Mountain and showed an interest in reaching out to different locations in the future to hear more about the history of each community and really showing the residents that we care.
 - b. The commission is interested in looking at additional community center meetings and planning a visit to learn about new groups; one example mentioned by Rebecca was Historic Toxaway because they felt they don't always get recognition because of the distance to Brevard
 - c. The goal is to make everyone feel like they are part of the community
 3. Rebecca mentioned the possibility of helping coordinate an educational program for teachers in the community that would be curriculum based. There are many community organizations such as the Heritage Museum or Military Museum that have coordinated programs, but it is hard for

teachers to keep track of all of them. Could the JHPC possibly create a powerpoint presentation or short 15 minute video overview of all educational resources related to history? It could potentially be called "In Your Own Backyard" and teachers could then share the project with their Principals and event put on the school websites. Although the JHPC could not complete the whole project, the group could pull other groups together with guidance on the project and get some push behind it. The commission would like to help facilitate cooperation and educational outreach would be better by working together.

- ix. A member asked about the Rosman downtown recognition program and if they were an active group. Rosman doesn't have a community center, but this is their community organization and they organize the Rosman Heritage Day.

x. Other

1. The JHPC members would like additional opportunities to go out to community centers and facilitate coordination between the different historic groups. This would fall under partnerships and advocacy within the strategic plan. The commission would like to take more of a role of being a helpful partner to other organizations.
2. Melanie mentioned that the commission had received a grant to create the Historic Walking Tour of Downtown Brevard brochure which also provides more recognition for a national historic district. At the time there was also discussion of a website, but ultimately the brochure was the piece that was created.
 - a. Melanie also mentioned that the Heart of Brevard is a preservation group although most people just associate the group with their downtown events. They are currently putting together a marketing strategy and looking at bringing awareness to the local landmarks and the downtown national register district through county signage. There could be grant funding available for some projects. They hope to educate visitors and community members and highlight the national register historic district.
3. Melanie mentioned that additional properties could be listed as local landmarks, but we would need the owner's interest. Could the commission create a recommendation letter to send to potential property owners?
4. Rebecca mentioned the possibility of creating a historic district in the Probart area and asked what this would look like to begin this process

V. Public and Board Member Comments:

- A. Melanie asked Jason if there were any items that should be goals for the commission or if there were areas they were not looking at based on his knowledge about the community so far. Jason commended the commission on their work and mentioned that the county is doing a great job at taking the initiative to preserve its history. He also met with Annie McDonald from SHPO and is very impressed with the work so far.
- B. Jeff wanted to receive an update on the Lodge and what the status was. Rebecca believed this had been approved and was listed in the June meeting minutes.

JHPC Meeting Minutes

Regular Meeting June 11, 2019

- VI. Adjourn:** Melanie Spreen motioned to adjourn. Molly Jenkins seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned around 4:45pm. The next meeting is scheduled for September 10, 2019.

MINUTES APPROVED


Rebecca Suddeth, Chair


Staff


Date

