

**TOWN OF BLACK MOUNTAIN
HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION
MINUTES OF REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING
May 20, 2009**

The **Black Mountain Historic Preservation Commission** held its regular monthly meeting on **Wednesday, May 20, 2009 at 7:00 p.m.** in the Town Hall at 160 Midland Avenue, Black Mountain, North Carolina.

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order with the following members present:

Martha Cummins, Chair
Mark Barker
Susan Sellers

Absent:

Phillip Lamb, Vice Chair
Bill Munn, Secretary

Staff:

Elizabeth Teague, AICP, Planning Director
Rebecca Eberhardt, Zoning Administrator
Rosa B. Hilbert, Senior Administrative Assistant

Other (s)

John Buchanan
Shirley Heim
Rosalie Phillips
Roger Rio
Julia Stout

II. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Susan Sellers made a motion to adopt the agenda. Mark Barker seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

III. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

Mark Barker made a motion to adopt the minutes of April 15, 2009. Susan Sellers seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

IV. OLD BUSINESS

➤ Historic District Nomination Grant update

Elizabeth Teague reported that the Town received a grant from the State Historic Preservation office. The project to pursue district nomination for both South Montreat Road and the Church-Connally Street districts as National Register nominees is feasible. There will be a public hearing during the Board of Aldermen meeting in June and hopefully, the match for the grant will be adopted in the budget.

➤ Report from Plaque Committee

Rebecca Eberhardt reported that Dart Sign Company, a local merchant, could design any type of sign or plaque the Commission wanted. She displayed two sample plaques with price quotes and said they would last 30 to 40 years.

V. NEW BUSINESS

➤ Request to paint a mural on the remaining retention wall of the former Williams Service Station (Conservation District)

Julia Stout, a local sculptor, requested permission to allow local artists to paint a mural on the remaining retaining wall of Williams Service Station on State Street. She received written permission from the property owner and is aware that the art wall may be destroyed when the property is sold. A copy of the signed permission statement via email was enclosed in the packet to Commission members. Ms. Stout gave a brief summary of her education, background and experience. She envisioned a gathering of master painters expressing the theme of the Swannanoa Valley in their designs displayed on the retaining wall. She offered several ideas for background colors and landscaping designs to present a subtle, placid effect that embraces this community.

Ms. Teague said that there are laws prohibiting graffiti-type art but there is nothing in the Town Zoning Ordinance addressing murals. There is already a precedent for murals in the downtown Historic District. The mural design would not be for writing or for advertising but merely a temporary use of the wall space for beautification in the Conservation District. She said that the permits issued for the property have been for demolition only; no formal plans have been submitted at this time. The property is considered stable in terms of stormwater runoff, and erosion not entering the main street.

Susan Sellers made a motion that the Historic Preservation Commission supports the concept of developing a mural on the remaining retaining wall of the former Williams Service Station which is located in the Historic Conservation District. Mark Barker seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

➤ Update on Minor Works approvals

Ms. Eberhardt reported that a request for an awning at Kilwins's located at 116 West State Street was approved through the Minor Works Committee. Ms. Teague thanked the Minor Works Committee for responding quickly to the request for the awning.

➤ National Preservation Month speaker – Rosalie Phillips

Ms. Rosalie Phillips spoke to the Commission about her childhood and growing up at the Monte Vista Hotel in Black Mountain. She gave a detailed history of the Monte Vista and her upbringing from the time her grandparents started the hotel in 1919. She shared pictures of the original hotel, family members and friends. Other pictures and memorabilia about the hotel are on display at the Swannanoa Valley History Museum. She shared stories about her adventures and responsibilities as a member of the family. Ms. Phillips lived at the Monte Vista for about 53 years and raised her daughter there. She has just recently had the opportunity to live in a separate single family unit.

Ms. Phillips said that the Monte Vista Hotel is a Historic Landmark and listed on the National Register of Historic places. Ms. Teague said that documentation was provided to the State Historical Preservation committee for the nomination of the Monte Vista Hotel. She said that the history of the Monte Vista is an integral part of what happened in Black Mountain.

VI. HISTORIC COMMISSION/STAFF COMMENTS – REPORTS, COMMUNICATIONS, COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS, FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Ms. Teague reported that Thomas Chapel AME Zion Church received approval thru the State Historic Preservation Committee and is going forward to Washington for National Register nomination.

The Board of Alderman has changed their meeting time to the second Monday in the month at 6:00 p.m. at 160 Midland Avenue.

The Planning Board is continuing work on the Land Use Codes Revisions. The Planning Board and Board of Aldermen recently concluded a series of joint meetings. The Planning Board will incorporate the recommendations into the revisions and present a draft to the Aldermen in August.

Ms. Teague said that there will be two openings on the Historic Preservation Commission. She briefly reviewed the qualifications for membership and asked Commission members for recommendations.

VII. PUBLIC COMMENTS - none

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

Mark Barker made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:20 p.m. Susan Sellers seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Martha Cummins, Chair

Bill Munn, Secretary

Rosa B. Hilbert
Senior Administrative Assistant