

HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

MINUTES

March 9, 2011

Members Present: Louise Howard (Chairman), Alexis Cooke (Vice-Chair), Debra Ludas, Parker Schlink, and Sandy Smart
Members Absent: Amy Dowdle
Staff Present: Agnes Wanman (Planner)
Guests Present: Drew Bridges

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 7:05pm by the Chair.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the February 9, 2011 meeting were unanimously approved.

PUBLIC HEARING AND CASE REVIEW

A. COA-11-2: *A request filed by David Boone of Southern Reconstruction, on behalf of Drew Bridges, for a Certificate of Appropriateness to construct a deck at the rear of Mr. Bridges' house at 228 North Main Street.* Agnes Wanman and Drew Bridges were sworn in by the Chair. Agnes presented the application, staff report, and accompanying materials and submitted them into the record. Drew Bridges confirmed the information in the application and from phone calls between Agnes Wanman and David Boone. Debbie Ludas moved that the application meets the Finding of Fact that the request meets the Secretary of Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation in that no historic material will be removed or destroyed, the deck will be compatible with the house, and if removed in the future the historic integrity of the house will be unimpaired. Alexis Cooke seconded the motion which passed unanimously. Debbie then moved that the application meets the Finding of Fact that the request meets the Historic District Design Guidelines in that the deck will be properly located at the rear of the house; it will be screened; and it will be compatible with the house and not compromise its historic

integrity. Parker Schlink seconded the motion which passed unanimously. Debbie Ludas then moved to approve the COA with the condition in the staff report. Alexis Cooke seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

The required condition is: “The edge of the deck and steps will be screened either with an evergreen vegetative screening along the south side of the deck and steps, or with a lattice screening from the decking and steps to the ground, painted to match the rest of the deck.”

TREASURER’S REPORT

Parker Schlink gave the report. After a deposit of \$118.00, \$0.90 interest, and a check written to the Woman’s Club for \$1,600.61 our balance is \$9,533.10. The check written to the Cultural Arts Assoc. is still outstanding.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

OLD BUSINESS

- A. Report by James Cooke, VP & Central Sales Manager of Utility Service Agency, Inc. on Street Lighting:** Mr. Cooke gave a very informative presentation on street lighting, including the importance of a well designed system providing even lighting, the importance of using lighting fixtures that are designed for commercial utility use, recommended pole height (16’), and recommended materials (metal). He also gave a rough estimate of the cost of installing street lighting down North Main Street of upwards of \$300,000 if double lights are installed down the center of the median. Better lighting will result if the lights are placed along the sidewalks but this would require twice as many poles. Installation along the sidewalks will also allow for downward directed light, which would not be possible if the lights are installed in the median. Lighting in the median would result in a greater nuisance of light spilling into homes. In either case the existing trees and other vegetation would provide obstruction and may need to be removed, especially in the median if lighting is place there.

Safety is an important issue. Not only sidewalks need to be adequately lit, but intersections where pedestrians will be crossing the street. Any trees with limbs below the height of the fixtures will obstruct lighting and may result in inadequate lighting so fixtures need to be low enough so that limbs are above, yet high enough to avoid being in the direct line of sight and becoming a glare for oncoming drivers. The best way to obtain good safe lighting is to remove all except the tallest trees, which of course is not an option in the historic district.

The HPC also considers general underground wiring to be important in the historic district and that this should be done at the same time as installing lighting. The town has the equipment to do this.

The town Board of Commissioners will be holding a public hearing on the Capital Improvements Plan on Tuesday March 15. The HPC Chair, Louise Howard, will attend and speak regarding the HPC concerns and desire for the town to place lighting along North Main Street as a high priority for funding.

- B. **Other:** None

NEW BUSINESS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

- A. **Christmas Tour Handbook:** Agnes Wanman briefly exhibited the new Christmas Historic Home Tour Manual. The purpose is to provide the planners of future tours a guide to planning the tour. The Woman's Club will have a copy, as well.
- B. **Report by Parker Schlink on Research Historic Properties:** Parker Schlink attended a class on research historic properties as part of the historic preservation curriculum at the Edgecombe County Community College. Due to the late hour she simply reported that it was an excellent class, that she learned several very useful techniques, and offered to help any who wished to research their home.
- C. **Cemetery Directional Signs as Proposed by Nancy Bates:** Due to the lack of time this item was postponed.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 9:20pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Louise Howard, Chairman

Agnes W. Wanman, Secretary