

**Orange County
HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION**

Meeting Summary

**June 26th, 2019
Old Orange County Courthouse
106 W. King Street, Hillsborough**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Todd Dickinson, Tom Loter, Art Menius, Paul Noe, Steve Peck

MEMBERS ABSENT: Susan Ballard, Becky Paxton (both excused)

STAFF PRESENT: Peter Sandbeck **GUESTS:** None

ITEM #1: CALL TO ORDER

Chair Dickinson called the meeting to order at 6:41 pm.

ITEM #2: CHANGES OR ADDITIONS TO AGENDA: Staff will give an update about Stillhouse Creek wood artifacts next to Post Office

ITEM #3: APPROVAL OF MINUTES for April 24th, 2019 (Attachment 1): Menius moved to approve the minutes as corrected; seconded by Loter; motion approved.

ITEM #4: ITEMS FOR DECISION: None

ITEM #5: DISCUSSION ITEMS

a. Bingham School (landmark) developments following HPC visit:

Staff presented an overview of our HPC site visit, then discussed the information sharing meeting held the following day at the school with Mountains To Sea Trail staff and volunteers, the owner of Bingham School, the owner of the Steel String Brewery and DEAPR staff. Issues discussed included: the extent and scope of the Brewery events; well water usage; truck traffic; DOT requirements for turn lanes; and possible adjustments to boundaries of parcel proposed to be acquired by the County to create larger buffers to better protect the setting of the Bingham School property. This area called The Oaks community was placed on the state Study List for the National Register back in the 1990s as a rural historic district but was never defined with a detailed map. Staff the provided an overview of the history of the community and showed photos of the historic properties there. Discussion followed about the proposed land acquisition by the county and the potential for a future rural National Register Historic District there.

- b. **Landmarks in ETJs: report back from meeting with Chapel Hill:** Staff reported on a recent meeting with a Town of Chapel Hill planning staff member to discuss landmark issues for both jurisdictions. Chapel Hill is actually investigating the idea of expanding the local Historic District Commission's role to include designating local landmarks within their municipal boundaries. They are open to working collaboratively with the County. Dickinson reviewed the history of the ETJ issue, where we have large swaths of land around the municipalities where nobody has jurisdiction over historic preservation in those ETJ zones. Staff will pursue getting more movement on this effort.

ITEM #6: UPDATES AND INFORMATION ITEMS

a. Brickwork Restoration Workshop at Burwell School re-scheduled: Our instructor, Wayne Thompson, agreed to a new date of June 29 for the workshop, to be held from 9 am to 4 pm. We have 14 people registered so far and more calling to inquire. Dickinson will be on hand all day to help out with various logistics. Peck and Barto Culp from Burwell School will also be assisting. Burwell and can provide tables, chairs and a bathroom. Visitors to Burwell may drop in on the workshop if they are touring the property.

b. Report back from CLG Training Workshop in Wake Forest:

Dickinson reported on this, which had a strong focus on cemetery preservation, including some very informative case studies about how to protect rural cemeteries as development moves into those areas. Some sessions also covered gravestone repair and conservation. Staff will work to implement some of the Wake Forest processes into our planning process to ensure that cemeteries are better identified and protected. Noe reiterated the concept that often the best preservation is to do as little as possible and not draw attention to these rural cemeteries.

c. Piper-Cox House update: Dickinson reported on progress on his work with getting bricks cleaned and counted so that the future contractor can order the correct sizes and numbers of bricks. Staff and several volunteers assisted, as did Wayne Thompson. The state has awarded the project to Clark Poe Construction in Chapel Hill. Poe has done a number of preservation projects, including the restoration of the Blackwood Farm barn and outbuildings. This is a great outcome for the house. Work should begin in late summer.

d. Eno Quaker Cemetery Update: The property owners who have been allowing access are expressing concerns about the number of visitors to the site. John Bell and Larry Barker are working hard to see if there are ways to obtain legal access via another route, maybe by working with the homeowners association for the adjacent large lot subdivision. Terri Buckner is still working on the draft landmark application.

e. Book project status/update: Menius reported that the committee met last Friday. Editor/author Laura Phillips is continuing her work on writing the property entries. We are reaching the point where we will need to start our fundraising in earnest, for the final pieces of the project, like layout, design and printing.

f. Wood artifacts on Still House Creek: The Office of State Archaeology has determined that we need to take this matter to the appropriate federal agency as this is located on the Post Office property. They can't even enter the federal property without first having consulted with the federal agency in accordance with the terms of Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. Staff will follow up with Renee Gledhill-Earley with the SHPO to determine the appropriate federal contact, presumably the GSA. Ultimately the federal agency will have to deal with this and figure out a way to mitigate the erosion damage to protect the resources. Noe explained how archaeologists would approach an investigation of this resource, in multiple phases depending on its significance.

g. Open air time: None

ITEM #7: ADJOURNMENT: Menius moved to adjourn, seconded by Peck; meeting adjourned at 8:18.

Meeting summary by Peter Sandbeck, DEAPR staff