

**Orange County  
HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION**

**Meeting Summary  
March 26th, 2014  
Old Orange County Courthouse  
106 East King Street, Hillsborough**

**APPROVED: 4-23-14**

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**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Todd Dickinson (Chair), Susan Ballard, Rob Golan, Jaime Grant and Bob Ireland

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** None

**STAFF PRESENT:** Peter Sandbeck

**GUESTS:** Student from the UNC Planning Department Preservation Class

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**ITEM #1: CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Dickinson called the meeting to order at 7:07 pm. He then recognized a student from the UNC Planning Department who is taking Myrick Howard's course in preservation planning.

**ITEM #2: CHANGES OR ADDITIONS TO AGENDA:** None

**ITEM #3: APPROVAL OF MINUTES (February 26<sup>th</sup>, 2014 meeting)**

Golan moved to accept the minutes, seconded by Ballard. Motion passed unanimously.

**ITEM #4: ITEMS FOR DECISION:** None

**ITEM #5: DISCUSSION ITEMS**

**a. Update on Potential Orange County/Chapel Hill Preservation/History Symposium**

Dickinson asked Sandbeck to hand out the draft program and give members an update on the planning for the two-day event, to be held Friday and Saturday, May 30<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup>. Friday will consist of a CLG training program for HPC members from across the Piedmont, with a good slate of presenters. This will be held in Chapel Hill at the Carolina Inn, followed by a number of tours, with Dr. Daniel Bluestone of UVA as the keynote speaker later in the afternoon, and a reception for attendees at the Horace Williams House. Saturday is our day to be hosts, at the Old Courthouse in Hillsborough. There will be six speakers presenting consecutively. We need to be mindful of the number of seats in the courthouse. Sandbeck is meeting tomorrow with Cheri Szcodronski of Preservation Chapel Hill, Sarah DeGennaro with the Alliance and folks from the Orange County Museum and the Burwell School to work out tours. Our role will involve helping to arrange things, be good hosts, help move people around and launch them on their tours. Registration will all be online at \$20 for one day and \$30 for both days, which will save a lot of headaches. Sandbeck and Dickinson will meet with Barry Jacobs this Friday to make arrangements for holding our closing reception at Moorefields. We need good clear maps and maybe signage to help get people out there. Ballard asked about who is doing the marketing. Laurie at the Visitor's Bureau will handle a lot of the marketing, gratis, but

that is probably targeted in a certain direction. We need to focus our marketing to reach our special target audiences; perhaps PNC, Federation of NC Historical Societies, etc.

**b. Evaluation of scoring of County funding grant applications:**

All members submitted their evaluation forms. The scoring ranges were surprisingly close. The HPC's scores will be combined with the staff scores, then it all gets sent back to the BOCC for their final decision.

**c. Historic Resource Evaluation Exercise:**

This was deferred until the end of the meeting to allow for completing other agenda items. Members discussed and evaluated the Snipes House (OR 708) located at 5200 Dairyland Road, near Orange Grove, in Bingham Township. Dickinson explained the process and walked everyone through the evaluation forms and ranking/scoring system. Sandbeck provided a PowerPoint presentation showing details of the property and its history, It has undergone a number of changes. The focus is just on the house, not the modern barns. Using the evaluation process, HPC members gave the property a **final average score of 37.5**, largely based on the loss of integrity of this c. 1850 late Federal/Greek Revival house. The exterior has been extensively altered. The interior retains some great details, including some mantels, two-panel doors and the stair, but has paneling and many alterations. This house is one of the largest of its period, comparable to Sunnyside and the Smith-Cole house. Ireland raised the question of how we can evaluate/compare this house with those of similar form in other counties and regions. Dickinson noted that houses of this form had started being built in the 1790s, so it was built at the very end of the period, and thus was "retardataire." It represented a sort of "volume over style" appearance. The presence of the aluminum siding raises the question of damage to exterior trim elements. Golan asked if reversibility of alterations should be considered. Dickinson reminded everyone to just grade it straight.

**ITEM #6: UPDATES AND INFORMATION ITEMS**

**a. Developments on County Survey Update and Book Project:**

Sandbeck reported that he was asked by David Stancil, head of DEAPR, to prepare a justification for our request for County matching funds of \$10,000 for this effort, which he submitted; he will share a copy. Our request has been placed in a special category where it appears to have a reasonable chance of being approved. We will make a case for this when the timing is right. We should hear about our CLG grant application in April, hopefully by the next meeting, which will help us with our case with the BOCC. Ballard pointed out that this will provide an incentive to complete our work on the database.

**b. Letters to Property Owners:**

Sandbeck shared copies of the letter that he sent to owners of the 30-plus study-listed properties. Dickinson noted that we delayed sending these until after the holidays.

**c. Overview of Current Preservation Activities/Issues in County:**

Sandbeck reported that there were no major new activities this month, and as a result, he did not have a presentation for this meeting.

**d. Open Air Time:**

Ireland was curious about the Lands Legacy Program. Sandbeck reported that this is the property easement program run by Rich Shaw; we had a handout at an earlier meeting. This program has included funding for new landmark applications for three years.

**ITEM #7: ADJOURNMENT:** Golan moved to adjourn, seconded by Ballard; motion passed. Chair Dickinson adjourned the meeting at 8:30 pm.

