

**Orange County
HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION**

Meeting Summary- Approved

**March 3, 2015
Whitted Center
300 West Tryon Street, Hillsborough**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Todd Dickinson (Chair), Bob Ireland (Vice Chair), Susan Ballard, Rob Golan, Jaime Grant, Grace White

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

STAFF PRESENT: Peter Sandbeck

GUESTS: None

ITEM #1: JOINT PUBLIC HEARING

The HPC held a joint public hearing with the Orange County Board of County Commissioners for proposed White Cross School local landmark designation. Mr. Stan Lewis, owner of property adjoining the school, spoke about an issue he was having with the owners of the White Cross School regarding cleaning up the site of the neighborhood well. No other public comments were received. The BOCC moved to refer the draft ordinance for local historic landmark designation back to the HPC for its final review and recommendation.

ITEM #2: CALL TO ORDER

Members of the HPC moved from the BOCC meeting room into Room 250 of the Whitted Center. Chair Dickinson called the meeting to order at 8:01 pm, to begin the regular meeting of the HPC following the joint public hearing with the Board of County Commissioners. Members expressed their support of the BOCC motion to move the White Cross School forward in the landmark process.

ITEM #3: CHANGES OR ADDITIONS TO AGENDA

Chair Dickinson asked if he could add an item regarding a proposed cell tower to be located on a farm at the intersection of Erwin and Kerley roads, this will be added as a discussion item.

ITEM #4: APPROVAL OF MINUTES (January 29, 2015)

Dickinson asked for comments on the draft January 29 meeting summary. Golan motioned to accept the minutes, seconded by Ireland. Approved unanimously.

ITEM #5: ITEMS FOR DECISION

a. Election of Officers for 2015

Staff reported that the HPC rules of procedure call for elections to take place in February. However, since the February meeting was postponed until March 3 to allow for the joint public hearing, members need to elect officers at this meeting. Golan nominated Dickinson to serve one additional term as chair. Discussion followed. It was the consensus of the group that it would be in the best interest of the HPC to have Dickinson continue to serve as chair while the HPC is in the midst of the present major effort to complete the survey update process and publish the book. Golan motioned to elect Dickinson to serve one additional term as chair. This

was seconded by Grant. Motion carried. Ireland was appointed vice-chair by acclamation. Staff was directed to handle the process of moving this forward. Discussion followed about recruiting a new member with special background in restoration architecture. Staff presented several names. Dickinson asked staff to follow up by contacting them and getting resumes.

ITEM #6: DISCUSSION ITEMS

a. HPC review of County's annual outside agency funds requests

Staff reported the County has received its annual requests for funds from outside agencies, and as in previous years advisory boards are asked to comment on applications for funds. As in recent years, the HPC is being asked to review and comment on applications from the *Historic Hillsborough Commission (Burwell School)* and *Historic Foundation of Hillsborough and Orange County (Orange County Museum)*. Staff handed out applications and score sheets for members to complete at home and submit by March 20th; staff will also email the digital score sheet.

b. Copy of CLG grant application submitted to the State Historic Preservation Office

Staff handed out copies of the application submitted by the deadline. This describes the next phase of the survey update project moving forward. The Town was not able to budget for matching funds for a CLG grant application for this current round, in FY 15-16, but plans to submit next year. This is not ideal but by doing survey in the ETJ of Hillsborough, it allows the project to continue momentum. The application also covers preparing the actual historical and architectural essay component. Discussion followed. Members agreed that this was a reasonable approach.

ITEM #7: UPDATES AND INFORMATION ITEMS

a. Survey project status and update on Town of Hillsborough participation in the book project:

Staff covered this in item 6-b, above.

b. Potential new approach for book project via UNC Press

Ireland reported on a recent development regarding his conversation with an old friend who expressed interest in helping to promote our proposed book as a worthy project for UNC Press to consider. This friend may also be able provide access to a potential line of funding assistance. Ireland asked staff to prepare a summary of the project that he can share. Members agreed that this would be a promising avenue to pursue.

c. Upcoming training workshops for HPC members

Staff reviewed the two upcoming training workshops to be held nearby, in Greensboro on March 19th and in Wake Forest on May 15th. Our CLG rules require that staff and two members attend one of the state approved training workshops annually.

d. Open Air Time:

Dickinson shared a recent information package he received regarding a proposed cell tower at Erwin and Kerley roads. Members reviewed maps and offered comments.

ITEM #8: ADJOURNMENT

Ballard motioned to adjourn the meeting; seconded by Golan. Members agreed to postpone the PowerPoint program. Motion approved. The chair adjourned the meeting at 9:01 pm.