

DRAFT MINUTES

Wake County Historic Preservation Commission
Tuesday, March 10, 2020 – 3:30 PM Room 2700 – Wake County Justice Center
301 S. McDowell Street, Raleigh, North Carolina

Members Present (8): Mr. Ed Morris (Chair), Mr. Jeff Hastings (Vice-Chair), Ms. Camille Morrissey, Ms. Lonnelle Williams, Ms. Carrie Ehrfurth, Ms. Nora Cambier, Ms. Peggy Beach, Mr. Dan Turner

Members Absent (4): Ms. Stephanie Ashworth, Mr. Marshall Harvey, Mr. Lee Tippett, Mr. Brendan Fetter

Staff (3): Mr. Gary Roth and Mr. Jeremy Bradham, Capital Area Preservation, Inc. (CAP)
Ms. Terry Nolan, Wake County Planning and Development Services Division

1. Call to Order / Roll Call:

Mr. Morris called the meeting to order at 3:31 pm.

2. Approval of March 10, 2020 Agenda

Hearing no objection, the agenda was approved as submitted.

3. Approval of February 11, 2020 Minutes

Hearing no objection, the minutes were approved as submitted.

4. Public Hearing to Consider the Designation of the George Sprite and Neva Flowers Barbee House as a Zebulon Historic Landmark

- a. Order of Hearing
- b. Presentation by Staff: Mr. Bradham presented a PowerPoint reviewing the architectural and historical significance of George Sprite and Neva Flowers Barbee House.
- c. Comments by Department of Cultural Resources are on file with these minutes
- d. Comments by Interested Parties: None.
- e. WCHPC Discussion/Action: **Upon a motion by Mr. Turner, seconded by Ms. Beach, the Wake County Historic Preservation Commission voted UNANIMOUSLY to recommend designation of the George Sprite and Neva Flowers Barbee House, Zebulon, as a Zebulon Historic Landmark to the Zebulon Board of Commissioners.**

N.B. Mr. Roth noted that this is the only privately-owned property that is individually listed in the National Register of Historic Places in Zebulon. He further noted that the landmark designation will be considered before the Zebulon Board of Commissioners at their meeting on April 6, 2020.

QUERY: Mr. Hastings asked for clarification of the boundary, and Mr. Bradham noted that it includes all contributing and non-contributing buildings within the proposed drawn lines (which also includes part of a building that straddles the neighboring property).

5. Committee Reports

- a. Outreach Committee: Ms. Morrissey reported that the *Wake County Preservation Celebration* will be held on Sunday, May 3, 2020 in Fuquay-Varina at the new *Cultural Arts Center*. A sign-up sheet was passed around for each commissioner to commit to bringing food items to the event. Much like last year, commission members were encouraged to bring items in serveware ready for the table. The sheet will be sent to those commission members not in attendance today. The Save-the-Date arrived in the mail and looks beautiful, and Ms. Morrissey thanked Mr. Bradham for its design. Mr. Turner, once again, has graciously volunteered to donate this year's invitations, which will be mailed out in the coming weeks. Details about the band will also be worked out between Staff and the committee before the next meeting.
- b. Designation Committee: Mr. Turner reported
- The public hearing before the Zebulon Board of Commissioners to consider designation of the George Sprite and Neva Flowers Barbee House as an historic landmark will be held on April 6, 2020.
 - The Strain House in Fuquay-Varina will likely be donated to CAP at some point in the Spring, leading to the possibility of designating the house as a Fuquay-Varina Historic Landmark this fiscal year. CAP is working with both the Town of Fuquay-Varina and the developer over the next few weeks and will hope to report more at the next meeting.
 - Staff is continuing to pursue additional potential historic landmark properties and shall draft more letters to be sent to those on the designation priorities list.
- QUERY:** Ms. Cambier asked about the procedural order when considering potential landmarks. Mr. Turner noted that any commission member can bring any potential landmark queries to Staff, who will pursue contact with the property owners. The designation committee and Staff are looking for solid recommendations from everyone. Ms. Cambier stated that there is a commercial building in downtown Wendell that has recently been renovated and might be a potential candidate. Staff shall investigate this further.

6. Staff Report

- a. Wake County Comprehensive Plan Update: None.
- b. Zebulon Board of Commissioners – Public Hearing for Barbee House Landmark Designation – April 6, 2020: The Zebulon Board of Commissioners will hold a public hearing for consideration of the George Sprite and Neva Flowers Barbee House as a Zebulon Historic Landmark.
- c. Wake County Board of Commissioners – Preservation Month Proclamation – April 20, 2020: Mr. Roth reported that Chair Morris and staff will be attending the WCBOC meeting at which May will be designated as Preservation Month in Wake County. The official proclamation shall be delivered at the 2020 *Preservation Celebration* on May 3. All commission members are encouraged to attend the WCBOC meeting on April 20.
- d. Preservation Celebration, Fuquay-Varina – May 3, 2020: The 2020 *Wake County Preservation Celebration* is officially scheduled for Sunday, May 3, 2019 at the new *Cultural Arts Center* (former *Belk's Department Store*), 123 E. Vance Street, Fuquay-Varina, NC. There will be a landmark tour with at least two or three landmarks open for the public to view.

7. Old Business: None.

8. New Business: Preservation Month Proclamation: All commission members received a copy of the annual preservation proclamation. Ms. Beach read the proclamation to the commission.

QUERY: Ms. Cambier asked if there is a statewide proclamation given by the governor. Mr. Roth stated that he was only aware of ones made on the County level.

Upon a motion by Ms. Morrissey, seconded by Ms. Beach, the Wake County Historic Preservation Commission voted UNANIMOUSLY to approve the proclamation designating May 2020 as Preservation Month in Wake County.

9. Other Business: Ms. Beach noted that the North Carolina Museum of History currently has an exhibit celebrating the women's suffrage movement, and the exhibit will be on display throughout 2020.

10. Chair's Report: Mr. Morris stated that he visited James Madison's Montpelier a few weeks back. The Dupont family purchased the plantation in 1904, and in 1984, the National Trust for Historic Preservation assumed ownership of the property. They have been collecting pieces of furniture associated with James Madison's time at the house and have done a masterful job restoring the house to that period. The Trust is also currently rebuilding slave cabins and outbuildings in order to interpret slavery in northwestern Virginia, late eighteenth and early nineteenth century. Mr. Morris encouraged commission members to visit the site if they have not yet had the opportunity to do so.

11. Adjourned: Hearing no objection, the meeting was adjourned at 4:10pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

**Jeremy Bradham
Secretary**