

Alamance County Historic Properties Commission

Tuesday, April 11, 2023

6 PM, Commissioners' Meeting Room

Virtual- <https://www.youtube.com/@alamancecoplanning9852/streams>

MINUTES

Members Present

Rodney Cheek, *Chair*
Katherine Hadley
Laurie Smith
John Greeson
Gale Pettiford
Aric Geda
Ravi Balan
Tra Waters
Emily Ehite

Members Absent

Chris Copsey
Lisa Bullard
Chris Wells

Staff Present

Tonya Caddle, *Planning Director*
Ian Shannon, *Planner I*

I. CALL TO ORDER

Called to order at 6:01 pm

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. March 14, 2023
Motion: Ravi Balan
Second: Tra Waters
Vote: Unanimous

III. OLD BUSINESS

1. 1. Commissioner Application: Arnetta Girardeau

Arnetta introduced herself to the commission, telling them that she was applying out of her love for history that stemmed from the bicentennial. She told the commission that she knows the importance and intention behind what you do in the future and how it connects to the past. She mentioned that she currently works as a lawyer and is looking forward to

expanding her knowledge of North Carolina history and wants to see how Alamance will be involved in America 250. She talked about her connections to American history from a black family perspective and how she thinks Alamance County is moving forward.

Motion to recommend Arnetta's appointment: Tra Waters

Second: Laurie Smith

Vote: Unanimous

Rodney Cheek discussed the change with appointments that the Board of Commissioners are doing with county boards. Alamance County has historically let boards make recommendations for appointments. It is in the bylaws to make recommendations but the Board of Commissioners had ignored these recommendations with the recent Planning Board appointments. We are making this recommendation but just want to raise awareness on this.

Tonya Caddle clarifies that the Board of Commissioners is doing this for all boards. Not all boards have this recommendation process in their bylaws. Staff and legal are working on language that lines up with these changes.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

1. Commissioner Re-Appointment Applications:

- a. Laurie Smith
- b. Katherine Hadley
- c. Christopher Wells
- d. Aric Geda

Motion to reappoint Laurie Smith: Ravi Balan

Second: Tra Waters

Vote: Unanimous

Motion to reappoint Katherine Hadley: John Greeson

Second: Laurie Smith

Vote: Unanimous

Motion to reappoint Christopher Wells: Tra Waters

Second: Laurie Smith

Vote: Unanimous

Motion to reappoint Aric Geda: Tra Waters

Second: Laurie Smith

Vote: Unanimous

Alamance County

HISTORIC PROPERTIES COMMISSION
201 W. Elm Street
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Tonya informs the Commission that the process is a little different for bringing this to the Board of Commissioners so this will likely go before them in May.

The Commission moved on to discussion on the memorial plaques for John Braxton and Pat Bailey, and Tonya presented a proclamation from the Board of Commissioners for John Braxton. The Commissioners had signed it but she was unable to find an official record of it being presented to the family. Rodney suggested presenting the proclamation alongside the memorial plaque. The commission continued their discussion on what they would like to see on the plaque and where it should be placed or if it should be given to the family to decide. Katherine Hadley suggested that John Braxton's work with Alamance Battleground should be recognized. Rodney mentioned a conversation he had with Katrina Coble's husband Mark about Braxton's membership with the National Muzzle Loading Rifle Association and how he not only took part in some reenactments and shootings but was also recognized for the quality of the guns that he made. Rodney told the commission that all of this seemed like a big deal but was never officially recognized by the county.

The commission agreed that both plaques should be waterproof, they would just need to decide on a location. Katherine Hadley suggested placing them at the Eli Whitney gymnasium since it was county property. Rodney suggested that the commission should figure out and agree to the language on the plaques first. For Pat Bailey's plaque, Katherine asked if her name should be "Pat Shaw Bailey" in the official language. Tonya presented the commission with a proclamation from the Board of Commissioners honoring Pat Bailey as well as the minutes from that meeting and a newspaper memorial segment that covered when that proclamation was presented to the family. The proclamation is written very similarly to the one of John Braxton but highlights some more specific accomplishments. Ravi Balan suggested that both memorial plaques for John Braxton and Pat Bailey should mention their passions for the county and history and how they both created more awareness for that history.

Katherine Hadley motioned to appoint Ravi Balan, Laurie Smith, and Tonya Caddle to a committee to finalize the language for the plaques for John Braxton and Pat Bailey.

Rodney suggests that everyone on the commission should look at each of the proclamations and compare, and share notes at the next meeting.

John Greeson seconds Katherine's motion

Vote: Unanimous

V. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Tonya announced to the Commission that the development in Haw River has not moved forward enough just yet to go before the Historic Properties Commission. There are some other considerations first. They have also demolished down to the original steel so the Certificate of Appropriateness might not be appropriate anymore. Staff and the Commission need to hear more from them first, and it might be summer before the Commission sees them considering the other factors. This developer went before Commission in the past for Granite Mills. This mill is in worse shape.

Tonya also spoke about an inquiry about the founding members of the Historic Properties Commission. Laurie Smith found a list of members in 1980 but is not sure if all were founding members or if joined later. Tonya told the commission that the clerk to the Board of Commissioners is still searching for that information. Trying to determine how long some initial members served. Planning staff also has records of all the minutes so they can look through some of those as well, and potentially request some assistance from the State Historic Preservation Offices.

Laurie listed off the 1980 members she was able to find:
George Troxler, Nancy Barge, Sarah Rhyne, Ella-May Perl, Ann Morrison, John Braxton, Richard Bryan, Ruth Way, Pat Bailey, Audrey Turner, and Durward Stokes

Tonya discussed some of the training options that had been emailed out. 3 board members and 1 staff have to attend 4 hours of training in order to keep Certified Local Government status. Tonya mentioned that the state is trying to set up a new online option for some of these trainings.

Tonya talked about how Burlington's Historic Properties Commission was potentially wanting to join up for a workshop in the future. Rodney agreed that the prospect of the two commissions working together would be a good idea, that it was always good to have shared fellowship and camaraderie.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

Motion: Tra Waters
Second: Laurie Smith
Vote: Unanimous
Adjourned at 6:55 pm