

Minutes of Meeting
Kootenai County Historic Preservation Commission (HPC)
DATE: June 16, 2021
TIME: 3:30 PM

A. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chair Burns at 3:31 pm.

1. Opening Protocols:

Russ Brown gave opening protocols (If none were given, put none were given)

2. Roll Call:

Present were Chair Walter Burns, Vice-chair Joe Piedmont, Laurie Mauser, Russ Brown, Jennifer DeRose, Courtney Beebe and Jonathan Mueller.

County staff present: Chandra Newberry

3. Introduce Guests: There were no guests.

B. Business (Action Items)

Agenda Item #1 - Current Project Status

a. Cougar Gulch Project -

Courtney provided the following update:

Sharon Boswell did visit on June 4 to engage in a little research related to the matter and to finish up the Garden District Project. Her tasks and activities included:

1. Meeting with committee members on Saturday (June 6) to drive the Gulch for a survey action gaining consent from 20 to 25 landowners for on-site reviews.
2. Properties for review were selected not only because of consent but also as they contained a barn.
3. Sharon says that a 'thematic' nomination may be possible because of the prevalence of barns in the gulch.
4. Sharon also took oral histories from those willing to give such
5. Additional survey work on Sunday (June 7) was accomplished to complete the effort.
6. Courtney to check with Sharon next week (June 23) for update
7. There may be 44 to 46 pieces to review.
8. Some post-1978 properties were added to the collection just in case of a data variance.

9.

Vice-chair Piedmont asked if there were any unique characteristics that were found. Courtney Beebe responded that expression was mostly in the form of lumber used and hay access hoods at the apex of the barns; most of the most of the outstanding examples were on Cougar Gulch Road.

Chair Burns noted that the best way to look at the Gulch may be via the barns.

Courtney Beebe agreed as many of the homes have had energy improvement upgrades such as new windows, etc.

Vice-char Piedmont asked if we know what the barns were mostly used for.

Courtney Beebe responded with the following:

1. Barns were in support of hay, cattle, farming, ranching, etc.
2. Barns mostly match the larger homestead mapping
3. Sharon had noted that it was unique and significant that a high % of the homesteaders in the Gulch 'proved out' in the homestead process
4. Consent for review of a few properties was difficult which resulted in delay or extended time

Jennifer DeRose asked if there was any sense of older farms southwest of the boundary qualifying for a district.

Courtney Beebe noted that perhaps that was possible and that Sharon will come back for additional work, if necessary.

Jennifer DeRose asked what Sharon's sense was on the eligibility statements.

Courtney Beebe replied that it was not so good depending on who it is or who may be asked.

General discussion continued related to potential allies for the cause and the value of the work without district designation. Russ Brown also asked about the existence of a small local railroad in the Gulch. Jon Mueller to check John Wood's work related to the matter.

Discussion finished and no action was necessary.

b. Bayview/Northeast County Project -

Laurie provided the following update:

Work continues on the project regarding what we can and cannot be included. Not much for consideration except for Bayview and Athol. Specific points she noted:

1. Relevant records and data have been ordered
2. Concern that 7K is not enough to do the work
3. Quite a bit of work in Bayview is evident
4. Not quite sure about work requirement for Athol although cultural resource data from the US 95 project may shed add more clarity to this
5. Will review data and pare down project with new description and forward on to Pete L'Orange for consideration

Chair Burns asked if 7K not enough, what might it cover?

Laurie Mauser responded that we might want to leave out one (1) town; contractor selected can be handed a list of tasks after we do some preliminary work; could also tighten the criteria to focus on pre-1950 components or develop a list of component for specific focus.

Discussion concluded with Chair Burns suggesting that we pare things down to be realistic matching scope with fee. No action necessary.

Agenda Item #2 - Review of Strategy Session

Chair Burns started the discussion with a call for feedback on the meeting, resulting documents and focus of attention.

Russ Brown offered the following:

- a. wondered if there was merit to looking at the Sunnyside/Wolf Lodge vicinity as an area of focus.
- b. Wondered about a Lakes/Harrison District focusing on the Bert Russell recordings/interviews; (discussion on this ensued)

Chair Burns noted that there is room to consider Russ Brown's suggestions.

Courtney Beebe offered the following:

- a. Would like to know who is doing what related to historical preservation, as in, Post Falls, Rathdrum, Spirit Lake, etc. so we can advise BOCC & provide outreach to areas or concerns most in need; really don't know how we can inform county ordinances until we know.

Russ Brown noted that some ongoing work in play at Hayden and Post Falls.

Vice Chair Piedmont noted that there is too much to do based on the list of projects/focus; sub-committees needed to prioritize tasks;

Jennifer DeRose noted when asked by Chair Burns that it was a good list of potential focus with interesting potential work.

Courtney Beebe noted we should establish the long-term vision but also focus on a near-term operational plan with actions like representation to P&Z and other committees;

With no further discussion, Chair Burns that Vice-chair Piedmont produce a synopsis of the discussion and a related plan for consideration to start to move things forward.

No action necessary.

Agenda Item #3 - Formation of Subcommittees

Chair Burns noted that after review of the potential committee suggestions/option with Vice-chair Piedmont, they would suggest that we merge the tasks of Outreach & PR with Programs to reduce the number of subcommittees as there is too much to do and too little larger committee members to populate such a number. New suggested subcommittees include:

1. Planning/Survey
2. Outreach, Planning & Programs
3. Government Affairs

Courtney Beebe suggested that we move along these lines to establish the subcommittees, flesh out/vet or confirm area of responsibilities & deliverables and populating by next meeting (July); ultimate goal to identify budget & related funding options as necessary.

Motion to do so by Jonathan Mueller. Second by Vice-chair Piedmont. Motion carries.

Following this Vice-chair Piedmont asked for us to express our committee interest to him by the end of the following week (June 24)

C. Open Floor

- a. Chair Burns issued a call for topics for future meetings. Committee to consider.
- b. Courtney Beebe requested clarification on a tax or portion of tax levy that funds Historic Preservation.
- c. Russ Brown asked about a depository for historic resources; where to place photos, etc. beyond Museum of North Idaho

D. Adjourn

There being no further discussion of agenda items or public comment, Jonathan Mueller moved to adjourn the meeting; Russ Brown seconded the motion. The motion was carried. Chair Burns adjourned the meeting at 4:50 pm.

Jonathan Mueller, Committee Secretary