

Saguache Historic Preservation Commission

Minutes of Meeting

November 18, 2009

Present: Committee members Leslie Griffith, Rick Barandes, Jane Martin, Kate Vasha and Burt Wadman

The November 18, 2009 meeting of the Town of Saguache's Historic Preservation Commission opened at 6 p.m. at the Saguache Library. In the absence of chair-person Tina Serna, vice chair Leslie Griffith presided. Minutes from the last meeting were approved.

Member updates

Jane Martin directed members to Historic Boulder's website: <http://www.historicboulder.org>. She also read their mission statement: "Historic Boulder is dedicated to the preservation of the Boulder area historical, architectural, visual and environmental heritage through advocacy, education, intervention, and alliance building." She asked whether we should come up with a mission statement. The group agreed that that is a good idea, but that getting our ordinance in place with the town needs to be our first priority.

(Burt suggested a goal: "to keep Saguache from getting 'fixed'.") The group discussed the possibility of a planning retreat in the spring, but no decision was made.

Rick Barandes brought up the cost of Breckenridge's rehab of a former livery stable into an art center: around \$600,000. One of our biggest challenges: Where will the money come from to stabilize and rehab buildings Saguache?

Meeting schedule

The group set the second Tuesday of every month as the default meeting date. Meetings set in 2010 so far:

January 12

February 16

March 9

April 13

All meetings will be at 6 p.m. at the Saguache Library.

Commission rules

Jane moved that the draft rules be adopted and forwarded to the town for review. Burt seconded, and the motion was passed unanimously.

Workshop: Discussion of draft ordinance

The commission began working through the draft historic preservation ordinance. Burt acted as amanuensis. Topics discussed included how tough to make the ordinance and whether we should have a provision that under certain circumstances allows buildings to be nominated/designated without the owner's approval. Everyone agreed that the main goal for the ordinance is to allow for historic preservation without turning Saguache into Salida or Crested Butte—that is, making the ordinance such a big hammer that people are forced to follow guidelines so strict that the town starts looking too homogenized, or that people are forced to sell their properties because they can't afford the cost of historically correct renovation.

The group adjourned at 8:40 p.m. after setting a next meeting for December 1 to continue work on the draft ordinance.