

Meeting Minutes
Saguache Historic Preservation Commission
Wednesday, December 3, 2014, 5:30 p.m.
Saguache Public Library

Present: Chair Leslie Griffith, secretary Kate Vasha, members May Engquist, Burt Wadman and Byron Williams

The meeting was called to order at 5:35 p.m.

I. Approval of agenda

The agenda was approved with two additions. (Burt made the motion to approve; Byron seconded.)

II. Approval of October 2014 minutes

The minutes were approved as submitted. (Byron made the motion to approve; Burt seconded.)

III. Public input

There was no public input.

IV. Information from History Colorado re landmarking of non-commercial buildings (May Engquist)

May has talked with Patrick Eidman of History Colorado, who has offered to help us with next steps. He will be glad to come down and meet with the group, or with private property owners. Once we identify our list of buildings, Patrick, as well as Astrid and Liz from HC, could come down and meet with property owners. Patrick also advised us to take lots of pictures—Leslie and May have already begun this effort.

The group also discussed the economics of preservation efforts in Saguache. Although there are state and federal tax incentives for landmarked buildings, these are probably not of much use to our (non-wealthy) building owners. The group discussed the possibility of a revolving loan program to help owners do repairs to at least stabilize their buildings. The loans would have generous repayment terms, but

also be a lien on the property that would have to be paid back when the building is sold. May agreed to look into this option more and report back.

The group also agreed that we should apply for a Certified Local Government grant in the fall of 2015, to continue survey work on historic structures.

V. Officer election for 2015

Leslie Griffith agreed to continue as chair, and Kate Vasha agreed to continue as secretary.

VI. Roundtable discussion: Work plan for 2015

VII. Proposal from member Burt Wadman

Burt Wadman, a founding member of the Saguache HPC, regretfully tendered his resignation. Burt has been invaluable to the HPC because he is a professional architect with a real appreciation of Saguache and its historic buildings. He offered to continue to be available to the group pro bono to answer questions, help identify and describe architectural styles etc. The other members regretfully accepted his resignation (and offer), and thanked him for all the work he has done.

The group briefly discussed people who might be willing to fill vacancies on the commission.

VIII. Set next meeting date

A meeting date of February 11, 2015 was tentatively set; Kate will communicate with members after the first of the year.

IX. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 6:30 p.m.