

Meeting Minutes
Saguache Historic Preservation Commission
Wednesday, May 18, 2016, 5:30 p.m.
Saguache Town Hall

Present: May Engquist, Leslie Griffith, Sara Fernandez, Amber Johnson

Absent: Adrienne Garbini, Leigh Ann Duncan

Town Hall Appointed Secretary: Lacy Reed

Guest: Rick Barandes, Heaven L. Harford

I. Call to Order: HPC Chair May Engquist called the meeting to order at 5:35pm.

II. Addition/Deletions from agenda/Approval of agenda: There were none.

III. Approval of minutes from March 1, 2016 and April 14, 2016: HPC members approved minutes for March 1, 2016 and for April 14, 2016.

IV. Public Input: There was none at this time.

V. Old Business:

Discuss prior HPC list of properties for possible land marking:

Chair May Engquist handed out the list of properties that had been identified for possible land marking to HPC members. She stated that they have gone to some of them, and that she and HPC member Leslie Griffith had visited the home of Ed & Mary Johnson, and stated that June Savage had an application to land mark her at this time. She asked that if HPC members knew of any other homes to add to the list to please let her know. She said last time they had moved six of the properties as priority listing one of them belonging to Dean Coombs. She added that the old log home really needed a new roof; which Mr. Coombs did put on. She stated that other one is the territorial house that has been purchased by Adrienne Garbini; but it too has had a roof installed. HPC member Amber Johnson asked if there was any reason why a person wouldn't want to; what's the draw back. Chair May Engquist responded that some people just object to it, and having it landmarked does not cost them a thing and it protects it. Amber Johnson stated personally she wouldn't have her property landmarked because she wouldn't want other people telling what she can and can't do with her property. Chair May Engquist stated it's preserving what's there they really don't say you can't paint it, she then added there is an actual brochure that says what you can and cannot do; she then handed out the application for land marking which she had on hand and gave a copy to each HPC member. Sarah Fernandez then asked what about the Hazard House Museum? Chair May Engquist responded that it has not yet been land marked. Sarah Fernandez was surprised to hear that the museum had not yet done that; adding that it needs to be as it's perfect.

Amber Johnson responded that they are going to destroy that house, because you can't let a property sit; it will decapitate. May Engquist asked are they not maintaining it? Amber Johnson responded you can't just let it like this year 12 straight months. Sara Fernandez responded that they open it up for Bill Hazard do his piano concert. Amber Johnson responded that Bill told her they are not opening at all this year. Sara Fernandez they do need to run the water and flush the toilets. Chair May Engquist stated that she had approached Bill Hazard about land marking the cemeteries, and he's not on board with that either, and maybe they should present it to the cemetery board, as both cemeteries have so much history. Sara Fernandez stated that she believes the Archuleta family donated the land for the Chicago cemetery. Amber Johnson then asked are there people willing to help with the paper work for land marking, as it requires a lot of information. Chair May Engquist then asked HPC member Byron Williams if his home had been landmarked. He responded that yes it had been as part of the historic district.

Chair May Engquist shared that she had been at a meeting earlier in the day with Town Administrator for Monte Vista and she shared that History Colorado is giving Monte Vista a lot of trouble with Historic Districts because there are some building they want torn down and History Colorado is fighting them on it. Sara Fernandez then asked what about the other side of the highway does is that included in the city limits. May Engquist then responded that it is. HPC members then discussed old farms around Saguache that could be considered for land marking.

Discuss land marking acequias: Chair May Engquist reported that she had spoken to Peter Nichols the Towns water attorney about land marking the acequias she stated that he has been the attorney for Sangre De Cristo Acequia Association down in San Luis. She stated that he said protecting acequias should start with a form for water rights, and it's a way of keeping them safe like land marking. She added that she had emailed Sarah Krakoff who is the director at CU for the process on the acequias. She added that Peter thinks this is a wonderful idea; she added that the CU program won't cost anything they just want to protect these things; she added that the Town Board is really excited about seeing that happening since the acequias have been in place since 1874.

VI. New Business:

Discuss Dan Corsan key note speaker: May Engquist reported that Dan Corsan who used to be with History Colorado but retired is now a consultant for the Colorado Preservation Inc.; adding that they are the group that had identified Saguache as most endangered place. She added that she and Town Trustee Kate Vasha had met with Mr. Corsan and he would like to use the success story of the revitalization of Down Town Saguache as part of his speech he'll be giving at Mobile Alabama. She then added that Lauren who works with the endangered places programs will be coming down to see what other help Colorado Preservation Inc. can offer HPC.

VII. HPC member comments: Chair May Engquist reported that HPC and the Town will find out if June if they have gotten the grant to help with the purchase of the Masonic Building.

HPC member Amber Johnson asked what had happened with the old hotel. May Engquist responded that the people from Boulder offered them a decent price, but then they got that new realtor who

thought they should get lots more; and they pulled out. She also added Tess Beneduce mentioned that they had a funder who would back them on the renovations there, and they were going to ahead with the historic structure assessment; she stated that she's not sure if it ever happened as ScSeed had contacted the Town for a letter of support in regard to them getting funds from a federal agency. She stated that it was something the Town could not do for one thing it would compromise the Town from asking for possible funds from that funder. She added that History Colorado had asked her how to get ahold of ScSeed she stated that they would like to know that to. Sara Fernandez asked if they were still even functioning because you use to see little ads in the stores and papers but she hasn't seen anything for a long time. May Engquist then inform everyone that Tess took over as their director but she seems unreachable; but doesn't believe they have anything going on, she added that if they do begin they'll have to go through the Town for land marking.

HPC member Amber Johnson then asked if a building like the Johnson's was land marked would they be able to do an addition, would they be able to that or would they need permissions. Chair May Engquist stated that she wasn't sure. Sara Fernandez stated that it kind of runs in line with the Towns Historical District; adding that Scott & Pearl Alexander bought a building on main street, and changed the outside of the build with faux bricks; would that effect the Historical District? Chair May Engquist responded that no because it was a noncontributing building to begin with. Amber Johnson then asked who oversees that district or any land marking. May Engquist stated as long as our town has a Historic Preservation Commission it's our duty to do that. More discussion continued about Towns that had lost their historic designation due to institutions dropping buildings.

VIII. Set next meeting date: After a short discussion the Historic Preservation Commission set their next meeting for July 20, 2016 at 5:30pm at Town Hall.

IX. Adjourn: The meeting was adjourned at 6:01 pm.