

HISTORIC RESOURCES COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes

July 28, 2025

The Historic Resources Commission (HRC) met on Monday, July 28, 2025, at 1:30 P.M. in the King Street Meeting Room at 100 N. King Street, Hendersonville, N.C.

ATTENDEES

Kathie Doole, Chair
Reid Barwick, Vice Chair
Anne Bryan Hanson
Michael Arrowood
Mandy Gibson
Knox Crowell
Robert D. Johnson
Jon Elliston (Guest Speaker)
Lee Stevens (Staff)
Carlos Martinez (Staff)

CALL TO ORDER/WELCOME

Kathie Doole commenced the meeting at 1:32 P.M. She welcomed new member Bob (RD) Johnson, who brings a wealth of experience in military service, home building, and historical research. His background and commitment to preservation, apparent by his involvement on various boards, are expected to enhance the commission's efforts.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Curt Kruger provided updates on debris removal around Crystal Springs following Hurricane Helene, noting that volunteers cleared the area. Crystal Spring itself saw considerable damage. Curt acknowledged that while road repairs are a priority, he would like to pay some attention to damaged historic structures. The Commission has offered to speak with Laurel Park and to pass along historic information on the site that may help in securing funding.

ADJUSTMENT OF AGENDA

The July 2025 Meeting Agenda was printed and emailed to the Commission prior to the meeting for their review. Commission member Mandy Gibson motioned to approve the July meeting minutes. Commission member Anne Bryan Hanson seconded the motion. The motion carried.

APPROVAL OF SEPTEMBER MEETING MINUTES

The May 2025 Meeting Minutes were provided to the Commission via email prior to the meeting for their review. Commission member Reid Barwick motioned to approve the May meeting minutes. Commission member Mandy Gibson seconded the motion. Motion carried.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Kingdom of the Happy Land – Continued from May Meeting

In line with the commission's interest in a historical marker for the Kingdom of the Happy Land, Jon Elliston was invited to share the work he has done to secure one. He outlined the application process, emphasizing the importance of digitization in historical research and the need for collaboration with local organizations. He discussed potential marker locations and the criteria for placement, ensuring visibility and safety to prevent vandalism. The conversation included concerns about opposition to marker placements and the logistics of coordinating with the Department of Transportation. The HRC will collaborate on a letter of support to aid in Jon's efforts.

UPDATES

Interlocal Agreements

Carlos Martinez addressed interlocal agreements with the Town of Fletcher and the Town of Laurel Park regarding the designation of historic structures, highlighting notable buildings and the need for renewed focus on these agreements. The Town of Mills River is the only municipality without any kind of historic commission, and Chair Kathie Doole will speak with the Town to see if they will initiate an agreement.

Coloring Book

The meeting concluded with a discussion on the use of AI tools for creating coloring book pages, acknowledging both their potential and limitations. The commission is exploring how to integrate these technologies effectively into its creative processes while maintaining accuracy in historical representation. The Commission noted that the software is creating too much shading for the purpose of a coloring book. Carlos Martinez invited the Commission to take clear and high quality photographs for reference images,

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the Commission adjourned at 2:48 PM.