

**Minutes**  
**Mason County Historic Preservation Commission**  
**December 10, 2015**  
**Mason County Commissioners Chambers**  
**411 N 5<sup>th</sup> Street**  
**Shelton, WA 98584**

**Members Present:** Rick Calvin, Steve Rose, David Corliss, Leslie “Butch” Carter and Stephanie Neil, Ed Huber

**Excused Members:** Marty Harrell

**County Staff:** Michael MacSems and Melissa Drewry

**Guest:** Jayni Kamin, Jeff Vrabel

**I. Call to Order**

*Roll Call-* The meeting was called to order at 2:00 p.m. and roll call was conducted.

*Review and Approve Minutes from November 12<sup>th</sup> Meeting-* Mr. Calvin pointed out an error on page two in the following sentence:

It is understood that Mr. Huber would be expected to ~~rescues~~ recuse himself from any HPC decisions involving work by his company.

No other errors or changes. Mr. Corliss made a motion to approve the November minutes as changed. Motion seconded by Mr. Huber. All in favor, motion passed.

*Correspondence-*

- December 2015 MC Historical Newsletter
- Washington State Historical Society

**II. New Business**

*Announcements-* Mr. MacSems announced that he will not be present for the January 14, 2016 Historic Preservation Commission meeting.

Mr. Corliss reported that he saw former chair Stan Graham recently and was able to talk with him.

*Welcome New Member Ed Huber-* Mr. Calvin introduced and welcomed Mr. Huber to the HPC. Mr. Huber thanked Mr. Calvin and said he is very happy to be a part of the Commission and to learn the process and workings of the group.

*Public Hearing: Historic Registry Application for Middle Skokomish School Building-* At 2:05 p.m., Mr. Calvin closed the public meeting and opened the public hearing for the Middle Skokomish School Building application. Jayni Kamin was present to answer questions about the application. Mr. Calvin began by saying the application submitted is one of the best he has seen and thanked Ms Kamin for being so thorough. Ms Neil agreed and commented that she is very happy to see this building nominated. Ms Kamin thanked Mr. Calvin for the compliment, but stated that much the credit goes to an inventory of historic school houses compiled [by who?] in the 1980s and stored at the Mason County Historical Society.

In looking at the application, Mr. Calvin went through the areas of significance and noted that the application states that at least two areas of significance must be met to be eligible for the Historic Register. The Skokomish School Building meets four of these areas.

Mr. MacSems asked about exterior changes to the building, specifically the back area. Ms Kamin noted that bathrooms were added at the rear of the building in the 1940's, and that a door was added around the same time as well. Mr. Huber said that in a side by side comparison of photos from 1940 and 2015, he could see that the structure itself seemed to be unchanged. He noted that there were some minor alterations such as the location of the windows which seemed to be closer on the original building. He also noted a door seemed to be added to the front of the building, the original chimney had been removed, and that the roofing is modern. Ms. Neil commented that the roofing can always be changed. Mr. MacSems asked Ms Kamin if she knew what building was behind the school in the old photos. Ms Kamin said that was the first schoolhouse that was used as housing for the school teacher.

Mr. Calvin stated that the structure still has a lot of integrity and historical value. At this time Ms Neil made a motion to place the Middle Skokomish School house on the Mason County Historic Registry. Motion seconded by Mr. Rose. All in favor, motion carried unanimously. Mr. MacSems said that he will forward the recommendation to the BOCC and that the process should conclude at a BOCC meeting in early January.

At 2:19 p.m., Mr. Calvin closed the public hearing and re-opened the public meeting.

*Discussion with Jeff Vrabel of Mason County Facilities-* Mr. Vrabel introduced himself to the HPC and gave a brief biography. He has lived within Mason County for 25 years, and worked for the City of Tumwater for 22 years as the facilities and parks manager. He explained that working with historical societies and properties is something he is familiar with. While working in Tumwater, he had the chance to work with the Tumwater Historical Association which gave him the opportunity to work on the creation of the Tumwater historical district, the Nathaniel Bing house and the Henderson House.

Mr. Vrabel stated that the reason he was at the meeting was to discuss Memorial Hall and the work that needs to be done. He said that no structural work will be done, but many things such as replacing lights, ceiling tiles, painting the walls, fixing the torn window blinds and refinishing the wood floor need to be done. He said that his main goal is to clean the building up because it is used by veterans and he would like to bring honor to them. Mr. Calvin stated that some discussion has been had regarding the funds due to the fact that the county technically owns Memorial Hall and the HPC was unsure if the funds could technically be used for a county owned building. He asked what the estimated cost was for all of the work. Mr. Vrabel said all of the work would be around \$10,000. Ms Neil questioned if the HPC was supposed to cover the full amount of the work or if funds would be coming from another source. Mr. MacSems stepped in and said that Commissioner Terri Jeffreys contacted him and asked about the possibility of the HPC funding the repairs.

Mr. Vrabel said that the hall is rented out for private events, but is not cleaned properly or cared for. He said if the hall is repaired, he believes asking for a deposit and holding parties accountable would be a necessity for upkeep. Mr. Huber asked if the hall made significant money from rentals; Mr. Vrabel was unsure. Ms Neil said she would like more information about the repairs and would like to see photos if possible to get an idea of the project details. Mr. Rose asked if the hardwood floor and the wainscoting was original. Mr. Vrabel said to his knowledge it was all original, and added that the wainscoting has been painted. He said that if any of the HPC members would like to see the building, he would be happy to meet them and show them the hall.

Before leaving, Mr. Vrabel said that help is needed with the Mel's Chevrolet Building that the County is now leasing. He said that part of the Conditional Use Permit for the building is to put up window displays. Mr. Calvin and Mr. Huber suggested partnering with the Shelton Historical Society.

Mr. Vrabel thanked the HPC for their time and said he would get some more information together regarding Memorial Hall.

*BOCC and Memorial Hall Budget Impact-* There was a discussion between the members regarding the 2016 budget and the impact of spending \$10,000 on Memorial Hall. They were all in agreement that \$10,000 was better than they were originally quoted for another project. Mr. Calvin said that if they were to use the \$10,000 on this project that they would need to pay more attention to the details of applications for grants.

*Other (if any) -* Mr. MacSems discussed the Cultural Resource Summit. Mr. Rose questioned why there were two dates for the summit. Ms Neil clarified that the meeting in May is the same one that has always been hosted, but the June summit would be hosted by the Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation (DAHP) at Squaxin Island

Tribe facility. She said that the June summit is mostly aimed at agencies and tribal members and should have some large names in from Washington D.C.

Mr. Calvin reminded the HPC that they need to vote for a new chair and vice chair at the January meeting.

### **Old Business**

*Ongoing Discussion—Historic Preservation Round Table-* Mr. Calvin stated that he is still drafting invitation letters to be sent out after the New Year.

*Website Update* – Mr. MacSems informed Mr. Huber that his photo needs to be taken in order to update the HPC's website. A discussion was had regarding online fillable forms. Ms Neil said she believes there are many benefits to the fillable forms, including the ease of reading grant applications. Mr. Huber agreed with Ms Neil and said that people are more likely to add more information if they are not handwriting everything. Mr. MacSems suggested that, as chair, Mr. Calvin write a letter regarding the forms since other means of communication had not been reciprocated. Mr. Calvin agreed to do so. He also said that he will bring a thank you letter for Mr. Bariekman's service on the HPC.

*Comprehensive Plan Update-* No new updates at this time.

*Future Historic Surveys—Discussion-* Ms. Neil said this was discussed at the November meeting and there was nothing new to discuss. She apologized to Mr. Calvin for not sending him property information from the Matlock Survey.

*Out Reach to Shelton Historic Preservation Commission-* Mr. Calvin stated that he hand delivered a letter to the Shelton HPC and that it would be read at their meeting that evening which was at 7:00 p.m. He added that he will share any response as soon as it is received.

*Other-* Ms Neil asked about open Heritage Grants and when they were due? Mr. MacSems stated that the two open grants are due by February.

Mr. MacSems received an email from Joe Berg, the contractor working on the kiosk for Twin Firs Cemetery asking for a Vector format graphic image of the HPC logo. Because we did not have one, Mr. Berg took the image from the website and was able to create a Vector file image of the Place of Historic Interest sign. Mr. MacSems reported that the contractor gave a copy of this graphic to the HPC for future use.

### **III. Other Commission Discussion**

*Financial Statement-* No comments or concerns.

**IV. Next Meeting Date January 14, 2016**

**V. Adjournment**

At 3:32 p.m., Mr. Rose made a motion to adjourn. Motion seconded by Mr. Corliss. All in favor, motion carried.