

**HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
OCTOBER 12, 2006**

The Van Buren Historic District Committee held its monthly meeting Thursday, October 12, 2006 at 5:30 P.M. in the City Council Room at the Municipal Complex. The following items were on the agenda:

1. Approval of minutes from last meeting
2. Update on progress, and next phase of 616 Main Street, Carl Solley, owner.
3. C of A for Old County Jail Building located behind the Courthouse on the southeast corner of 3rd and Webster Streets, Van Buren, Arkansas, for restoration and rehabilitation of exterior of building to its original appearance. Project architect is Pat Biggerstaff of Biggerstaff, Minden and Hall.
4. John Pope of Keep Van Buren Beautiful to address the Committee
5. Any other business that comes before the Committee

Present: Dwight Hopkins, Chairman
Cami Brown, Rec. Sec.
Vickie Davis
Paul Gibson
Jody Rhoads

Absent: John Symonds

Others Present: John Pope
Sue Deaton
Rusty Myers

Chairman Dwight Hopkins called the meeting to order at 5:30 P.M. The first item addressed was the approval of the meeting minutes from the August 2006 meeting.

After some discussion and review, Jody Rhoads made a motion to approve the minutes as written. The motion was given a second by Vickie Davis, and the motion carried with a unanimous decision.

The next item up was an update on the progress at 616 Main Street, owner Carl Solley. Chairman Hopkins commented that as before, the Committee had agreed to make an exception in his case for not being present, due to his business travels causing a conflict. This C of A was approved on Mr. Solley's work and Mr. Solley has updated and kept the Committee in step with all phases of work he is doing to the building. The phase for review at this time was for replacing the windows on the upper level windows on the front of the building, as well as the upper level only windows on the back of the building, per the attached materials and colors chosen from the Historic District Color Charts. Drawing of this proposed work were also attached. After some discussion and review a motion was made by Vickie Davis this work would not affect the surrounding structures, motion seconded by Jody Rhoads, and motion carried with a unanimous vote. A motion was made and seconded to approve this request to continue, and passed with a unanimous vote.

Next item for review was the Certificate of Appropriateness for the Old Jail Building located at the Courthouse in Van Buren. There was no representation for this C of A, and with the project being a fairly involved project, the Committee was concerned as to whether or not to table the matter until next month, and to contact a representative to be present. A phone call was made, however, and Rusty Myers agreed to get to this meeting as soon as possible. The Committee tabled this review until the time of Mr. Myers arrival.

John Pope, spokesman for Keep Van Buren Beautiful, addressed the Committee at this time. Mr. Pope explained that this organization was formed in May of this year, and the group is in conjunction with Keep America Beautiful. The goal is to make our community aware of how we all need to work together to keep our City of Van Buren clean, and that it will take all of us to do that. On October 28th of this year, the organization is promoting a Keep Arkansas Beautiful weekend by placing 4 dumpsters, 2 at the vacant lot behind our County Courthouse, and 2 at Lake Lou Emma for citizens to come and dump trash that needs to be picked up in our community. This will begin at 7:30 A. M. After the dumpsters are full, there will be gloves, trash bags, etc. available to the public to use to target other areas, anywhere people can and will give their time. The Committee thanked Mr. Pope for sharing this with the Historic District Committee.

While waiting on Rusty Myers to arrive, the Committee decided to proceed with any other business, which involved Sue Deaton and her three buildings on Main Street. Mrs. Deaton came before the Committee, and Chairman Hopkins updated the Committee where things stood with Mrs. Deaton and a lawsuit that had been filed by the City for non-compliance with Certificates of Appropriateness that had come before the Historic District Committee for the last six years. After reviewing the list of items in question, discussing these items, discussing what Mrs. Deaton has done, and what she intends to do, the Committee was satisfied with all requests, as was Mrs. Deaton. The Committee

told Mrs. Deaton that for temporary steps in the back of the buildings for fire exits needed to be discussed and approved by the Building Dept. and the Fire Marshal, to which Mrs. Deaton replied she would get with those Departments on those matters, as well as checking with them for a building permit when she begins any work to the buildings.

Next item on the agenda was the C of A for the Old County Jail Building located behind the Courthouse in the southeast corner of 3rd and Webster Streets, Van Buren, Arkansas. Proposed work at this time and for which this C of A is for is replacement of existing composition-shingle roof with a standing seam metal roof and other restoration work on top of the building. Work is being done in accordance with Arkansas Historic Preservation Program standards and is based on advice from historical preservation architect John Mott of JMA Restoration Firm, and input from Pauly Jail Company, the firm that designed and constructed the building in the 1890s. The other work on top of the building is to fix the existing chimneys. Mr. Myers made it clear to the Committee that although there is more work to be done in the future, this C of A is strictly for the work on the roof and the top of the building alone, and that for any other work in the future, the County will come back to the Committee with another C of A. After discussion among Rusty Myers and the Committee, a motion was made by Vickie Davis that the work will not affect any surrounding structures, and this motion was given a second by Jody Rhoads. The motion carried with a unanimous vote. Paul Gibson then made a motion to approve the C of A for the Old Jail Building, and the motion was given a second by Vickie Davis. The motion carried with a unanimous vote.

At this time the meeting was adjourned.

Dwight Hopkins, Chairman

Cami L. Brown, Rec. Sec.