

**CITY OF LANGLEY**

**HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION  
MINUTES**

**August 7, 2008**

Draft to Bob Waterman 8-7-08

Draft to Larry Cort 8-7-08

Chair Bob Waterman called the meeting to order at 9:34 am

**Members present:** Bob Waterman, Fran Abel, Linda Beeman, Herb Helsel, Marty Fernandez  
(arrived at 9:40)

**Members absent:** Harrison Goodall, Jerry Finrow

**Staff/Guests:** Larry Cort, Planning & Community Director  
Mary Jo McArdle, Minutes taker

Linda Beeman moved to approve the minutes from the 7/24/2008 meeting. Fran Abel seconded.

**Continued discussion of our scope of work focusing on the Top Tier items:**

Bob Waterman updated the Commission on the August 6<sup>th</sup> City Council meeting requesting the mayor to sign the nomination forms for the Langley City Hall and the Langley Woodmen Cemetery for registration into the Langley Historical Preservation Registry. Mayor Paul Samuelson agreed to sign the nomination forms for both.

Several Commission members provided updates on their research contacts.

Marty Fernandez – Spoke to Suzanne of the ‘Main Stay’ – 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday Building celebration to be held on August 24<sup>th</sup> 2-5 pm. Marty will attend.

Linda Beeman - Will share her research on Voelker house again. Bob and Linda will be attempting to get the South Whidbey Historical Society Board to nominate the Historical Museum at their next meeting.

Fran Abel - Nothing more on Firehouse. Fran spoke to Louise Grant Pruitt about the Grant house. Louise indicated the house was part of a large Hazelnut Farm. She also spoke to Helen Price Johnson who wasn't able to add any new information however, suggested Fran speak to Anna Primevera. Fran added she learned that the house was called the White Fir house because of the two White Fir trees planted at the front of the house in it's original location. There is channel siding on the house that has writing on the backside of it and, that the floor has old linoleum on the underside raising the question if these materials were salvaged from another old house.

Bob Waterman asked the Commission to begin looking at what Langley's standards should be when considering a nominated building. How much change to a building will be acceptable for the local registry (that might deviate from National Registry standards). Larry Cort suggested the key should be analyzing the historical integrity of a structure. Are the changes still suggestive of the original structure? He added there are federal guidelines that can be used to help us in this process.

Another suggestion presented was to take the Federal Guidelines and then think about how much the local standards should vary from those. Larry stressed that developing local standards is an important element to have.

Potential new buildings to investigate for possible nomination were mentioned including the Spencer house and the “pumpkin” house on 6<sup>th</sup> St next to the new cottages.

Bob Waterman asked Larry if there was someone to talk to the Commission about what makes a building unique historically. Larry responded stating that there are some very good people out there. Names of potential folks to assist the Commission were named and included Megan Duvall or her colleague Michael Houser who is an Architectural Historian.

Bob shared his thoughts on why it would be helpful to have some experts and hear what they have to say about Langley. One reason was a result of what he'd heard from some saying that there wasn't anything of historical value in Langley to save. Therefore it would be helpful for him to hear from the experts. Linda added it would be educational and very interesting to have several experts together and do a walk about stimulating conversation and discussion between the experts.

Larry Cort added that Megan Duvall usually likes to pair a new Certified Local Government (CLG) with an established one who can mentor and provide assistance to the new CLG. Larry added that the island houses a lot of talent in part due to Ebby's Landing. There is a series of lectures and seminars in the near future scheduled in Coupeville called 'Ebby Forever' that will include historical preservation. This might be something for the Commission to look into.

Bob Waterman shared some of his thoughts/concerns about the element (or lack thereof) of historical preservation components in Langley's Design Review process. He raised the question of how the Commission might play a part in contributing input regarding historic character for projects that come before the Design Review Board. Is there an opportunity for historic preservation elements/standards be incorporated into the Design Review process? If good solid historical preservation criteria/standards could be integrated into the Design Review process then design review decisions wouldn't be so nebulous and subject to different interpretations as board members change over time. Linda Beeman added that she would like a formal Ordinance proposal to get a historical preservation component into the Design Review process.

The Commission discussed ideas on how they could take advantage of available monies either through the CLG and/or from the Island County funds. Several ideas were identified including:

- ✓ Developing a web site
- ✓ Create of brochure
- ✓ Utilize a data base for Historical Preservation information
- ✓ Develop educational materials
- ✓ Photograph headstones in the cemetery/headstone restoration?
- ✓ Invite professional historians (architectural) to walk through the town with HPC and tell us what makes Langley – Langley (not only from historical structure perspective but also add (if possible) the character element that Harrison Goodall has raised several times.

In addressing the question how does one develop a sense of historical pride in a community? The Commission should be thinking about ways that begin to educate the community about its

own history. Linda Beeman suggested that Bob Waterman take his presentation to the Clyde Theater for the community (and other City Boards) to view.

In closing this phase in the scope of work Larry Cort agreed to talk to Megan Duvall and Mark Price. Linda Beeman and Bob Waterman will talk to Mimi Sheridan and Jerry Finrow about getting together and come talk to the Commission at next week's meeting (and prior to Bob leaving for 9 weeks), to help identify elements that define Langley, and about available resources.

### **New Business**

No new business

### **Conclusion**

Larry Cort suggested the Commission nominate a co-chairman in Bob's absence. Fran Abel nominated Linda Beeman, Herb Helsel seconded, Linda Beeman accepted. The vote was unanimous

Between now and next meeting be thinking about the character of Langley and how can character be incorporated into the historical discussion.

### **Adjourn:**

The meeting adjourned at 11:03 am

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday August 14, 2008 at 9:30 am (If Larry and Fred can attend to discuss their work on establishing the "character" of Langley).