



**Town of Cornelius  
Historic Preservation Committee  
"Preserving Our Heritage for Future Generations"**

**Agenda  
March 8, 2018  
6:00 PM  
Cornelius Town Hall-Manager's Conference Room**

- I. Call To Order**
- II. Determination of Quorum**
- III. Citizen Concerns/Comments**
- IV. Approval of Minutes**
  - A. Approval of Minutes
- V. Old Business**
  - A. AG Buliding CMHLC Update
- VI. New Business**
  - A. Old Town Cornelius Presentation
  - B. Oral History Subcommittee Report
- VII. Announcements**
- VIII. Adjournment**

## REQUEST FOR BOARD ACTION

 [Print](#)

Date of Meeting: March 8, 2018

To: Chair and Committee Member


From: Summer Smigelski, Planning Admin.

**Action Requested:**

Approval of Minutes

**Manager's Recommendation:**

**ATTACHMENTS:**

Name:	Description:	Type:
 <a href="#">HPC_Minutes_02082018.DRAFT.doc</a>	February 8, 2018 Minutes	Backup Material

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**Town of Cornelius  
Historic Preservation Committee  
“Preserving Our Heritage for Future Generations”**

**Minutes  
February 8<sup>th</sup>, 2018**

**Members Present:** Kathryn McClelland  
Joe Purdy  
David Stockwell  
Jessica Boye  
Catherine Gautier  
Matthew Reihl  
Ron Potts  
Alexandra Pizza

**Members Absent:** Julie Miller

**Staff Present:** Becky Partin, Staff Liaison  
Summer Smigelski, Secretary

**Guests:** See sign in sheet

**DETERMINATION OF QUORUM**

Chair McClelland called the meeting to order at 6:05 pm and determined there was a quorum.

**CITIZENS CONCERNS/COMMENTS**

None

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The Committee unanimously approved the January 11, 2018 minutes with corrections.

Motion: Approve, Moved by Matthew Reihl, Seconded by Catherine Gautier. Passed. 7-0. Committee Members voting Ayes: Jessica, Kathryn, Joe, David, Catherine, Matthew, Ron and Alexandra

**Recap of all Black History Month Events**

Mr. Potts announced that on Monday, February 5<sup>th</sup>, 2018 the Mayor proclaimed February as black history month. Mr. Potts thanked Ms. Boye and Ms. Gautier for all of their work.

Ms. Gautier mentioned that some of the displays that are at the pub are from Davidson College.

Mr. Potts provided a summary of the events at the “Old Town Public House”.



**Town of Cornelius  
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**Minutes  
February 8<sup>th</sup>, 2018**

Chair McClelland thanked the sub-committee for organizing all of the black history month events and for keeping the committee informed.

The sub-committee will regroup after February to start planning for next year's black history month.

**Arts Center Update and input**

Chair McClelland informed the committee that another input meeting has not been announced and that the committee would not have to wait; they can schedule a meeting with the Chair of the Arts Center.

After discussion, the committee agreed to arrange a meeting with Scott Higgins, Chair of the Arts Center, to discuss ideas.

**Designating Sub-Committees**

The committee discussed the responsibilities of the sub-committees.

After discussion the committee agreed that the sub-committees would be selected for each event as they come.

**Targeting Properties for Preservation**

Chair McClelland mentioned a draft letter that Ms. Gautier sent to her and Mr. Washam that can be sent out to specific areas to target residents for a designation information session. The purpose of these sessions is to educate residents that may have misconceptions on preservation.

**Announcements**

Ms. McClelland announced that committee member, Julie Miller has resigned; Town Board will present her a plaque for recognition of service.

**ADJOURNMENT**

By unanimous vote, the meeting adjourned at 7:54 p.m.

## REQUEST FOR BOARD ACTION

 [Print](#)

Date of Meeting: March 8, 2018

To: HPC Members

From: Will Washam - Senior Planner

**Action Requested:**

Hear Presentation

**Manager's Recommendation:**

Hear the update from CMHLC staff regarding the processing of the Cornelius Elementary AG building as a Historic Landmark

**ATTACHMENTS:**

Name:	Description:	Type:
No Attachments Available		

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## REQUEST FOR BOARD ACTION

 [Print](#)

Date of Meeting: March 8, 2018

**To:** HPC Membres  
**From:** Will Washam - Senior Planner

**Action Requested:**

No action required

Visit <https://oldtowncornelius.com/>

**Manager's Recommendation:**

Hear the presentation from Case Warnemunde on OTC.

**ATTACHMENTS:**

Name:	Description:	Type:
No Attachments Available		

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## REQUEST FOR BOARD ACTION

 [Print](#)

Date of Meeting: March 8, 2018

To: HPC Members

From: Will Washam - Senior Planner




**Action Requested:**

Hear report from the Oral History Subcommittee regarding their thoughts and ideas for the project. Provide feedback regarding the scope, scale, and outcome/deliverables of this project.

**Manager's Recommendation:**

Hear update and provide feedback

**ATTACHMENTS:**

Name:	Description:	Type:
 <a href="#">Oral_History_Subcommittee_notes_3.2.18.docx</a>	Subcommittee notes 3.2.18	Backup Material
 <a href="#">oral_history_project.docx</a>	2015 Oral History project notes	Backup Material
 <a href="#">Contacts.docx</a>	2015 Oral History project contacts list	Backup Material

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What are we trying to achieve, what are we looking to do with it?

- Add to existing history of Cornelius
- Advance history to more current events (1970s-1990s)
- Gain better understanding of the community
- Focus on specific events (development of I-77, creation of Lake Norman, annexation by the town of the lake neighborhoods)
- Do we limit the scale to make it more manageable?
- Create a short video (10 minutes) highlighting certain historic events to be played in the Arts center or in town hall
- Who is our audience for the information we will compile?
- What has already be done in terms of the oral history of our community?

Who to interview?

- Begin with subjects that we know (Ron Potts, Katherine and her parents, Will and his family, the North Branch Historic Society, individuals associated to the town) to help us begin the project and provide a structure as to how to proceed
- Once we have the groundwork increase the scale
- Meet with groups to identify potential interviewees
- Voter databases?

How to conduct interviews

- Potential volunteers
- Intern
- Committee members
- Training needs of the interviewers



## **ELEMENTS OF PROCESS**

Core questions written

Audio and photo release form devised

Interview subjects identified

Interviewers recruited and trained

Interview appointments made

Interviews conducted

Photos of interview subjects taken in meaningful settings or with artifacts

Release form signed

Interviews edited for information and for audio excerpts

Audio woven with photos and background info to create presentations

Original audio and photos preserved

## FAQ FOR POTENTIAL INTERVIEWERS

*Q. What kind of equipment do I need?*

A. The most important is a smartphone app that will record long clips and is limited only by available space. A good example, available both for iOS and Android, is Voice Recorder HD. Also vital: a camera or smartphone camera app capable of producing high-resolution JPG files; a pad and pen/pencil.

*Q. Why a camera or camera app?*

A. We'd like you to take a few photos of your subject in an appropriate setting and/or posed with a historical artifact. The camera or app must be set at finest resolution and be capable to producing a JPEG file of at least 5mb in size.

*Q. How should I dress for the interview?*

A. The goal is to put your subject at ease, so you should dress appropriately and have a neat/clean appearance. Aim for at least a step above T-shirt and jeans or shorts. So, appropriate dress might be a button-down shirt or blouse and dress pants or modest-length skirt.

*Q. What do I ask?*

A. We'll supply a set of questions. During an interview, however, you're free to ask your subject to clarify and/or expand on answers.

*Q. Any tips on conducting an interview?*

A. First off, you should get your subject to relax. Comment on his or her home, discuss the weather — whatever it takes to break the ice. Second, the information you elicit from your subject is of paramount importance, but “clean” audio is vital. Therefore, please avoid “stepping on” his or her answers or breaking his or her train of thought by interrupting. (Similarly, taking photos while your subject is speaking also could cause him or her to lose a train of thought.) If you need your subject to clarify and/or expand on an answer, please wait for a natural break. Here's where a pad and pen/pencil come in handy, to jot down what you are waiting to say. Third, if your subject is going off on a long-winded tangent, take the opportunity at a natural break to get the interview back on track by asking the next or a follow-up question. Fourth, maintain eye contact with your subject if he or she is comfortable with that. But remember, interaction while your subject is speaking needs to be nonverbal — nods and the like. Any verbal responses — words of agreement, chuckles, etc. — step on the audio. Also for a clean recording, please ensure that the interview setting is as free as possible of ambient noise. The recording device should be placed close to your subject, especially if he or she is soft spoken, but not in his or her face. Test before the interview to ensure the recording app is functioning properly, and during the interview glance at it occasionally to make sure it is recording your subject's voice at a sufficient level.

*Q. What if my subject balks at discussing a particular topic or expanding on an answer?*

A. Don't press your subject to say more than he or she is comfortable saying. If you press your subject, you certainly won't get an answer to that question. You also might bring the entire interview to a screeching halt and imperil future efforts to get the person's cooperation (and perhaps that of friends and family) with historic preservation efforts.

*Q. How should I deliver my audio file and photos to you?*

A. Via email attachments is one way. Sharing the contents of a Dropbox or Google Drive folder is another. The size of a file can make it difficult to send. You might need to break up your recorded interview into two or more pieces. To do so, at a natural break in the interview — after, let's say, about 20 minutes — end one audio file and begin another. With photo files, if they're more than 5mb and you're attaching them to email messages, you should send them individually.

## **GUIDELINES FOR SELECTING INTERVIEW SUBJECTS**

The goal is to interview a diverse array of people who can speak to one or more of these time spans:

### *Through World War II (-1945)*

- Farm life
- Town life
- Segregation
- School
- Church
- The Great Depression
- Wartime and its sacrifices/privations

### *Baby Boom years (1946-1963)*

- Families grow
- Town grows
- Last years of (legal) segregation
- Beginnings of economic shift
- New facilities

### *The lake (1964-present)*

- A changing landscape
- A changing economy
- Lake life
- Assimilation of transplants
- Desegregation
- Smithville annexation
- Mill closings
- I-77 impact
- Rise of the subdivisions
- West Catawba commercialization
- Recreational & cultural boom
- New faith communities
- New opportunities for women & minorities

## **POSSIBLE INTERVIEW SUBJECTS**

Lloyd "Ink" and Terry Blackwell, 704-892-6536

Rev. John "Didi" Wayland

Miriam Smith Whisnant

Nannie Potts

Jack Conard

??

## **QUESTIONS TO ASK INTERVIEWEES**

Were you born in Cornelius?

### ***If yes:***

Is (was) your spouse from here as well?

How long has your family been here?

What brought them here? What line(s) of work did they get into?

What did your parents do?

Where in town did you grow up?

What was life in Cornelius like in your neighborhood? In your school? In the town?

### ***If no:***

How long have you lived in or around Cornelius?

What brought you here?

Is (was) your spouse from here?

### ***For all respondents:***

Did you work in town? What kind of work? For how long?

Are you currently or have you been involved in any public service in town:? What kind? For how long? What are some recollections of those experiences?

What is or was your favorite place in town? Your favorite memory?

How about people? Who really stick in your mind? Why?

What have you seen change for the better in Cornelius? For worse?

If you were speaking to someone moving to town, where would you tell them to go first or what would you tell them to do first?

### ***At end of interview:***

What is your contact information?

Any suggestions for other people to speak with?

What would you hope to see represented in a town history museum?

Would you be willing to have someone speak with you about the possibility of donating or loaning one or more photos or artifacts?

May I photograph you with a photo or artifact? Or in a setting that's meaningful to you?

## **WAYS TO PRESENT THE ORAL HISTORIES**

A single narrative piece that blends a variety of perspectives on town life in bygone days

A number of audio/photo/artifact displays on specific topics and/or time periods

Access to full-length interviews (audio & transcript)



## Contacts for oral histories

1. Ethel Sides. Lifelong resident lives at 19610 Meridian. Last known contact info 704-719-6248. Her neighbor, Bobby James Brown, is also a native I think. 19609 Meridian
2. Misty Lee Brown. No contact information. She owns property at 19720 Meridian but according to tax records her mailing address is 10020 Hambright Road in Huntersville.
3. Wynnee Wally. 21001 Torrence Chapel Road (NW corner of Torrence Chapel at Knox Rd.) 704-892-8724
4. Rev. Didi Wayland. Bethel Presbyterian Church.
5. Miriam Smith Whisnant and husband Rod Whisnant. 704-892-8251
6. Nannie Potts (former mayor) and husband Mickey Potts (Potts Barber Shop). 704-892-8796
7. Nancy Archer (former HPC member) and husband Michael. Natives.  
[nancyarcher@mindspring.com](mailto:nancyarcher@mindspring.com)
8. John Blakely (native). [jblakely@mi-connection.com](mailto:jblakely@mi-connection.com)
9. Doc (John) Washam (native). 704-517-8578
10. Jim Bradford (Nancy Archer's brother). [jamesbradford@bellsouth.net](mailto:jamesbradford@bellsouth.net) 704-892-0623
11. Kenny Brotherton. 704-892-6041
12. Gordon Cashion. [Gordon@cashions.net](mailto:Gordon@cashions.net)
13. Jack Conard, Jr. [jackconardjr@gmail.com](mailto:jackconardjr@gmail.com)
14. Dr. Jan Blodgett, Davidson Archivist. [jablodgett@davidson.edu](mailto:jablodgett@davidson.edu). Recommend you visit Davidson College Library and see what you can learn from their archives.
15. Delores Edwards (former HPC member & Mt. Zion historian). [Edwards3668@bellsouth.net](mailto:Edwards3668@bellsouth.net)
16. Abigail Jennings and husband Randolph Lewis (both former HPC members. Abigail is a native of the area and strong historic preservation advocate. Owners of historic landmark Old Mt. Zion Methodist Church Parsonage on S. Main Street). [abigailjlnr@gmail.com](mailto:abigailjlnr@gmail.com) and [rainydaylewis@gmail.com](mailto:rainydaylewis@gmail.com)
17. Mitzi & Chris Mayhew. Natives of the area & local business owners. 704-896-1855
18. Lisa Mayhew Jones. Native and leader of Smithville Community Coalition.  
[Nmayhew0@email.cpcc.edu](mailto:Nmayhew0@email.cpcc.edu)

19. Darlene Newman. Native and former HPC member. 704-896-3329
20. Danny Skidmore. Native of area. [dskidmore@rockwellddevelopmentcenter.com](mailto:dskidmore@rockwellddevelopmentcenter.com)
21. Vertie Torrence. Native of area. Smithville resident. 704-892-5184
22. Charles Wilber, former HPC member, local business owner. Native (?) [cwilber303@aol.com](mailto:cwilber303@aol.com) 704-892-3633
23. Lloyd (Ink) and Beth Blackwell. Natives. Live on Cornelius St. 704-892-6536