



**Nevada County Historical Landmarks Commission**

**P. O. Box 1014**

**Nevada City, California 95959**

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**Minutes of February 19, 2021**

**Location:** Remote access through online video conferencing, or phone, due to the Covid 19 shelter in place in accordance with procedures established by Governor Newsom and the Nevada County Board of Supervisors, in regards to holding public meetings.

**Meeting called to order by:** Chair Bernie Zimmerman at 9:00 a.m.

**Commissioners present:** Elinor Barnes, Bruce Boyd, Barbara Czerwinski, Mike Kochis, Niel Locke, Jerry Martini, Chuck Scimeca, Felicia Tracy, Audrey Trauntvein, and Bernie Zimmerman.

**Commissioners absent:** None.

**Guests and consultants:** Linda Jack - Nevada County Historical Society, Lee Adams - Chair of the State Historical Resources Commission, Heidi Sproat - Truckee-Donner Historical Society.

**Pledge of Allegiance:** Led by Jerry Martini.

**Approval of minutes from the previous meeting:** Motion to accept by Barbara Czerwinski, second by Jerry Martini. The minutes were approved by vote.

**Presentation:** Lee Adams - Chair of the State Historical Resources Commission

Lee Adams gave us his background. He has lived in Downieville since 1979, where he has been associated with the Sierra County Historical Society, the Downieville Museum, as well as other historic sites in Sacramento. His commission does the same thing we do, but in a different format at the state level. Ninety percent of landmarks are of local significance. He explained how the National Register works, and the pros and cons of doing so. He stated that an item can also come off the register due to various reasons. There are twenty-three sites in Nevada County that are on

the National Register, such as the Donner Camp, and most recent being the North Star house. He told us that Nevada County is ahead of all counties in registering landmarks.

Bernie Zimmerman explained our commission's work, and will send him a copy of our book. We have not done anything regarding the state or national register for approximately thirty years. It was deemed to be a daunting task, almost requiring a professional consultant to prepare the application.

Lee gave us kudos for our excellent work. He stated that we are way ahead of all counties in recognizing cultural diverse landmarks. A discussion was held on the challenges of registering a landmark with the approval of various other commissions.

### **Commissioner's Reports:**

#### **A. Chairperson:**

1. Bernie Zimmerman received a request to have the Indian Medicine Rock, near the Rood Center in Nevada City, landmarked. Niel Locke stated that this item needs to be tabled, as he is the chairman of the California Heritage: Indigenous Research Project (CHIRP), and that he has no knowledge of this request.
2. Bernie has not heard from District 5 Supervisor Hardy Bullock regarding his or Barbara Czerwinski's reappointment to the commission.
3. Ethics training sessions were mentioned.
4. Form 700 will be coming due. All members are required to submit the form.

#### **B. Secretary-Treasurer:**

1. Mike Kochis reported on the current financial status of the Commission.

#### **C. Promotions Director:**

1. Audrey Trauntvein reported that she sent out a press release for the Historic McGlashan Butterfly Collection. YubaNet, The Sierra Sun, and The Union published it.

#### **Old Business:**

1. **Budget:** We have some money left to pay bills, and have approximately \$3000 left to spend. Bernie Zimmerman suggested we move forward with the Hirschman's Pond and Kentucky Mine plaques before June.
2. **Organic documents revision:** Nothing new to report.

3. **Presentations to Supervisors:** Nothing new to report.
4. **Alexander homesite:** Linda Jack reported that she and Steve Fry met with property owners Louise and David Beesley, and the plaque will be installed Monday, February 22nd. Steve Fry and Chuck Scimeca will do the work. A small dedication ceremony will be conducted when Covid rules allow.

5. **Ethnic community landmarks:**

1. **AME churches:** Linda Jack reported that the Grass Valley site is moving along. The Grass Valley Historical Commission is going to the city council for approval on February 23rd. The recommendation will be that the City of Grass Valley will mark the site, and the plaque will be placed across the street. The property owner will share in the cost of the plaque. Linda will then submit an application to our commission for county landmark status. It will be a joint plaque.

The Nevada City AME church site has not made progress in moving forward.

2. **Chinese rail workers:** Jerry Martini has done significant research on the topic. He has found that at least 300 Chinese laborers worked building portions of the Nevada County Narrow Gauge Railroad (NCNGRR), such as the railbed. Bernie suggested a plaque could be placed in Clamper's Square, at the intersection of Railroad Avenue and the Sacramento Street off-ramp from the Golden Center Freeway in Nevada City. This will be completed next year.
3. **Hirschman's Pond:** Bernie Zimmerman has approached various groups to assist in funding the plaque, but we will probably will have to fund it. There are four possible locations for mounting the plaque, but the City of Nevada will have to approve it. Niel Locke is working on the application.
4. **Chinese miners:** A project for next year. There was a very large Chinese community in the town of Washington. Bernie Zimmerman has had ongoing communication with Professor Gordan H. Chang, of Stanford University, whose ancestors resided there many years ago. A location for plaque placement will be explored.
5. **Kentucky Ridge mine:** Chuck Scimeca shared a draft of the text of the proposed plaque. A discussion was held on some minor wording changes. The property owner will partially fund the plaque, but we will need to fund as much as necessary out of this year's budget. A site visit will be planned in near future.

10. **Potential Historic Designations:**

A. **Cemeteries:**

**North San Juan Protestant Cemetery:** Elinor Barnes reported that Matt Melugin, of the Nevada City Cemetery District, has finished the application and sent it to his board for approval. Elinor stated it was one of the most beautiful cemeteries in the area.

**St. Paul's Church and Cemetery:** Elinor has called Debbie Bierwagen and asked for an update on plans for the St Paul cemetery plaque.

**New Business:**

1. **Idaho-Maryland headframe demolition:** The concrete structure was recently destroyed, but by who, is unknown. Rise Gold did not do it. Bernie Zimmerman requested Elinor Barnes to ask her contacts at the City of Grass Valley if there was a permit issued.

**Good of the Order:**

1. Yuba Bet press has issued a copyright infringement letter to an individual, as Chuck Scimeca's book has been pirated.
2. Mike Kochis shared the magazine "Destination" published by the Greater Grass Valley Chamber of Commerce, and suggested we submit articles for inclusion for next year's issue.
3. Niel Locke recited "Gong Xi Fa Cai" (Mandarin) and "Gong Hei Fat Choy" (Cantonese) in acknowledging the Chinese New Year and the year of the Ox. He also wished "Happy Purim" and discussed hamantaschen.
4. Lee Adams thanked the group for allowing him to participate, and gave kudos for our work.
5. Linda Jack was contacted by a person regarding the Carter house in Nevada City, and will forward the info to us for future discussion.

**Public Comments:** None

**Next Meeting:** March 19, 2021

**Location:** Zoom video conferencing

**Meeting adjourned at:** 11:14 a.m.

**Minutes approved:** March 19, 2021

**Respectfully submitted:** Mike Kochis - Secretary/Treasurer