



Nevada County Historical Landmarks Commission

P. O. Box 1014

Nevada City, California 95959

info@nevadacountylandmarks.com

Minutes of October 16, 2020

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 9:04 a.m.

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

Commissioners absent: Bruce Boyd.

Guests and consultants: Greg Zirbel and Ed Czerwinski.

Pledge of Allegiance: Led by Niel Locke

Approval of minutes from the previous meeting: Motion to accept by Niel Locke, second by Chuck Scimeca. The minutes were approved by vote.

Commissioner's Reports:

A. Chairperson:

1. **Idaho-Maryland Mine:** Bernie Zimmerman received a communication from Andrew White, of Benchmark Resources, and who represents Rise Gold Corp., stating his consultant had "missed this issue", the issue being that the Idaho Maryland mine is a local historical landmark designated by the Board of Supervisors, and requested more documentation. He was placed in contact with Gage McKinney.

Ben Mossman, of Rise Gold Corp, extended an invitation for us to visit their office and view the many original historical maps and documents for the Idaho Maryland Mine, discuss the proposed project, and show us the mine site. We felt this was not appropriate for our commission. It our belief that it is up to the Board of Supervisors and the Nevada County Planning Commission to comment further.

2. **Legacy Tree:** Bernie Zimmerman receive a communication from a Franny M. wanting to designate a tree as a historical landmark. Niel Locke communicated with her that there is a process for designation, and only one tree, Grass Valley's Famed Maple, was designated in 1976 by the Native Daughters of the Golden West, and is now gone. Bernie sent her an application. There has been no further contact from her.
3. Bernie Zimmerman explained the context of the email he sent regarding the removal of trees by PG&E in and around Nevada City's Pioneer Cemetery; stating that the cemetery is a registered historical landmark, and that all care should be taken in not damaging the gravesites during the removal process.

B. Secretary-Treasurer:

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

C. Promotions Director:

1. Audrey Trauntvein asked for suggestions of items to post to the website.

Old Business:

1. **Organic documents revision:** Bernie Zimmerman has had no communication from Jeff Thorsby regarding the progress of the revision of the document. Bernie will contact Deputy County Counsel Scott McLaren, who has had input on the document and its revisions.
2. **Presentations to Supervisors:** Bernie Zimmerman has had no communication from Jeff Thorsby regarding a date for presenting.
3. **Sally Lewis plaque:** The plaque now in possession of the Nevada Theater, who trustees will wait until Covid restrictions are lifted to schedule its installation and a dedication ceremony.
4. **The McGlashan Butterfly Collection:** We are awaiting on decision from the County on guidelines. Barbara Czerwinski will contact District 5 Supervisor Richard Anderson, to see if he can help in getting the process moving forward.
5. **Alexander homesite:** A corrected application was sent to the County, regarding the correction of the current property owners. Jeff Thorsby was to submit a corrected resolution to the Board of Supervisors, but it is unknown if a vote has been taken at this time.

6. Ethnic community landmarks:

- A. **AME churches:** Bernie Zimmerman reported that the owners of the Nevada City property are supportive of the application, but are currently listing the property for sale. At issue is a location for the placement of the plaque, and as to who would pay for the plaque. The Grass Valley location is presenting a more challenging situation, due to multiple property owners. Howard Levine has offered his assistance.
- B. **Chinese rail workers:** Bernie Zimmerman spoke to Lee Schegg regarding a location for a plaque placement, but there has been no further progress.
- C. **St. Paul's Lutheran Cemetery:** The application has been reviewed by Elinor Barnes and Jerry Martini and found favorable. Bernie Zimmerman suggested the application be recast to include the church and the cemetery, as it would be beneficial to mark the site of the church and the cemetery at the same time. The members felt it was a great idea. Elinor and Bernie will work on the revision. Niel Locke motioned that the application, as revised, be approved, and sent to the Board of Supervisors with a recommendation that the site be designated as a historical landmark. Felicia Tracy seconded the motion. The motion was approved by vote.

10. Potential Historic Designations:

A. Historic Schools:

- 1. **Lime Kiln:** Nothing to report.
- 2. **Indian Springs:** Nothing to report.

B. Truckee Veterans Memorial Building and Rocking Stone Tower: Nothing to report.

C. Salvation Army/Bookstore: Nothing to report.

D. Cunningham Cemetery: Elinor Barnes reported that she was having difficulty identifying the current property owner of the ranch in which the cemetery is located, in the Lime Kiln district. Mike Kochis will check with his contacts on gaining access to the cemetery.

New Business:

- 1. **Rock Walls:** Bernie Zimmerman gave a summary of the rock wall communications we have had in the past two months. Felicia Tracy contacted land owner Paul Mayhew of the Wolf district, in which he stated it was his understanding that they were built by Chinese workers. She also contacted Paul and Darryl Sanford, whose family has ranched for generations in the Wolf district. Darryl Sanford stated that when the mines ceased using Chinese labor, they then became laborers

in building rock walls. The walls were originally four feet tall, and the laborers were paid sixteen cents a rod (16.5 feet). Over time, many rocks have fallen, or been stolen, thus the walls are shorter and wider than they originally were. Unfortunately, there are no definitive documents attributing the rock walls' construction to the Chinese. Bernie Zimmerman contacted local historian Hank Meals, who is very knowledgeable about local rock walls and their historic value. Felicia will explore further resources.

2. **Truckee Plaques:** Barbara Czerwinski reported from Truckee, that the Lake Tahoe Railway & Transportation Company Plaque will be housed in the Museum of Truckee History at the historic Truckee Train Depot on Donner Pass Road, until it can be mounted outside when current remodeling construction is completed. Greg Zirbel, Museum of Truckee History curator, took us on a quick video tour of the museum.
3. **Kentucky Mine:** Chuck Scimeca suggested the site of the Kentucky Mine, in the Newtown district, for possible designation. He will explore further with the land owner and do more research.

Good of the Order:

1. Niel Locke reported that the remodeling plans for Commercial St. were discussed at the recent Nevada City City Council meeting.
2. Chuck Scimeca received an email from Trisha Tillotson, Nevada County Director of Public Works, responding to the information he sent in regarding an historical sketch of the Edwards Crossing Bridge.
3. Bernie Zimmerman was approached to be a mentor for a student at Nevada Union High School, whose Senior Project will be regarding local history.

Public Comments: None

Next Meeting: November 20, 2020

Location: TBD

Refreshment responsibility: TBD

Meeting adjourned at: 10:35 a.m.

Minutes approved: November 20, 2020

Respectfully submitted: Mike Kochis - Secretary/Treasurer