

Annual Report  
of the  
Southport Historic  
Preservation Commission

October 2023-October 2024

November 6, 2024

# **Annual Report of the Southport Historic Preservation Commission for the Year 2023-2024 (October 2023-October 2024)**

The Commission is composed of 7 members and 2 alternates. Members of the Commission include:

Charles Drew	Bonner Herring
Rick Pukenas	Jim Mckee
Bonnie Bray, Alternate	Joanne Wesson
Josh Cline McGee	Lewis “Tal” West, Alternate
Alexis Gore Graves	

Members, Joanne Wesson and Bonner Herring were reappointed by the Board of Alderman and sworn in for a 2<sup>nd</sup> term expiring June, 2024.

Officers of the Commission:

Charles Drew, Chairman  
Rick Pukenas, Vice Chairman  
Maureen Meehan, Secretary

Staff Members assigned to the Commission:

Tanya Shannon, Deputy City Clerk  
Penny Tysinger, Historic Preservation Planner  
Maureen Meehan, Planning Services Director

Board of Alderman Liaison:

Robert Carroll

The Southport Historic Preservation Commission had a busy year developing and preparing documents for the City to adopt the local district boundary map and design standards. The City contracted with Stewart Consulting to develop the inventory report, local district boundary map, and design standards. The Commission met throughout the year and assisted with the new inventory, agreed to expand the local district boundary and approved the design standards that were presented by the consultant to date. The Standards were forwarded to the State Historic Preservation Office /NC Dept of Natural and Cultural Resources (State) for a cursory review. Overall, the State was pleased with the document and offered a few suggestions for improvement. The Consultant continues to finalize the documents so the State can officially review and provide their final comments.

In addition, the City is undertaking an update of its Comprehensive Plan and Commission Member Jim McKee was appointed to the Comprehensive Plan (Plan) Steering Committee. Commission members reviewed the draft goals and recommendations as it relates to the historic preservation component of the Plan. The Commission was pleased to see that historic preservation ranks very high based on community input received during the update process and items the City should prioritize in the Comp Plan. It was also noted that many of the goals and recommendations support the work done by the Commission during this year.

In November 2023, the Commission held the second of two public input meetings with the community (the first public meeting was held on October 16, 2023). Public feedback was given on the first draft of the design standards and boundary lines. Citizens comments received during the first meeting were researched and addressed at the second meeting.

In February 2024, the Commission held a joint meeting with the Planning Board to review the draft of the design standards. Discussion was held on the difference between guidelines and ordinances.

In May 2024, Penny Tysinger was introduced to the Commission as the City's Historic Preservation Planner.

The Commission attended several training sessions throughout the year. Topics included How to conduct a hearing, Reviewing request to determine if they were Major Certificates of Appropriateness (COA's) or Minor Works, Who has Standing in a quasi-judicial hearing, Communication and Historic Resilience planning.

The Commission looks forward to the adoption and implementation of the local historic district and the design standards next year.