

March 12, 2014
Special Joint Meeting with Historic Landmark Preservation Commission

The Randolph County Board of Commissioners met jointly with the Randolph County Historic Landmark Preservation Commission (HLPC) in special session at 6:00 p.m. at the site of the 1925 Toomes-Lee Petty home place and the original site of Petty Enterprises located at 311 Branson Mill Road, Randleman, N.C. Commissioners Harold Holmes, Darrell Frye, Phil Kemp, Arnold Lanier and Stan Haywood were present, as well as, County Manager Richard Wells; Assistant County Manager/Finance Officer Will Massie; Associate County Attorney Aimee Scotton; and Cheryl Ivey, Clerk to the Board. In attendance from the HLPC were Chairman Hal Johnson, Bill Johnson, Bill Ivey, Lynne Qualls, Marsha Haithcock, Mac Whatley, Nan Kemp, Warren Dixon and Amanda Varner, HLPC Clerk.

At 6:10 pm, HLPC Chairman Hal Johnson called the meeting to order for the HLPC, welcomed those present and explained the purpose of the joint meeting: to consider Local Historic Landmark designation of the site of the 1925 Toomes-Lee Petty home place where Richard and Maurice were born and raised. Also included in the Local Landmark designation will be the original site of Petty Enterprises, including the A-frame reaper shed and original race shop and engine rooms used and constructed from approximately 1951 to 1964.

County Commissioner Chairman Harold Holmes called the meeting to order on behalf of the County.

HLPC Chairman Johnson explained the process of Local Landmark Designation and the public hearing process and noted that this was a historic (first time the two boards had met together) joint public hearing for both boards. He then introduced Richard Petty Museum Director Mac Whatley, who provided the historical background of Petty Enterprises, ca. 1949 and the Toomes-Petty House, ca. 1925.

Mac Whatley said that this would be Randolph County's 20th historic landmark and explained the site's historical value. He said that the nucleus of the Petty complex is the original bungalow home of R.V. and Allie Toomes, where newlyweds Lee and Elizabeth Toomes Petty lived with her parents and where their children, Maurice and Richard, were born. The original reaper shed, which has been expanded over the years, was the seed that grew into Petty Enterprises. Mr. Whatley noted that the metal-framed building now known as the Red Floor Shop was built in 1969 as the set-up and fabrication shop of the #43 car and is now used as a display area for Petty Museum exhibits and changing gallery for "show cars." Attached to the north end of the Red Floor Shop was the fabrication shop for the #43 and #44 cars, and now used as the parts department and machine shop. Petty's Garage is the tenant of the adjoining "Gray Floor Shop," built in 1999 as an expanded engine room and as the set-up shop for #44 cars. The paint and body shop (1973) and the Maurice Petty Engine Shop (1974, 1999) are located just north of the Lee Petty House.

HLPC Chairman Johnson opened the joint public hearing on behalf of the HLPC.

Commissioner Chairman Holmes opened the joint public hearing on behalf of the County Commissioners.

Tammy O'Kelley, Director of Tourism for the Randolph County Tourism Development Authority, spoke in support of the landmark designation, pointing out that the fame that Richard Petty has brought to our nation, state and county is significant. Having the support of Richard Petty, the most decorated driver in the history of NASCAR racing, was a major key to the TDA's successful ability to market Randolph County from the TDA's inception. Ms. O'Kelley noted that in her 13 years with the TDA, Richard Petty has never declined to help the organization when asked. She also noted his extraordinary treatment of his fans: signing autographs, shaking hands, posing for photos; doing it all with a smile and a rare sincerity. She also remarked that Richard Petty truly cares about this county and about the tourism industry. Ms. O'Kelley concluded her comments by saying that on behalf of the Board of Directors, the TDA wholeheartedly endorses and supports the historic landmark designation.

Winston Kelly, Executive Director of the NASCAR Hall of Fame, endorsed the landmark designation on behalf of the Hall of Fame. He also spoke about Richard Petty's impact on his own life, stating that 50 years ago, he had attended his first NASCAR race, which was won by Richard Petty. Mr. Kelly said that he was able to meet Richard Petty after the race. Mr. Kelly highlighted the Petty family's racing achievements, which include Richard's record 200 racing wins and seven championships, and the induction of Richard, Lee and Maurice Petty and cousin Dale Inman into NASCAR's Hall of Fame. Mr. Kelly also noted that Richard's humble nature does not detract from him being one of America's most recognizable celebrities. He also stated that Richard sets the benchmark for customer service.

Darrell Frye, Randolph County Commissioner, spoke about Richard Petty's encouragement and advice to him before becoming a County Commissioner and during the years they served together on the Board. He valued and sought out Richard's opinion on many issues, specifically citing the Randleman Lake issue. He also noted Richard's unwavering devotion to his fans that he observed on numerous occasions during the period in which Mr. Petty served as a County Commissioner. Commissioner Frye said that Richard was always willing to offer his celebrity to help his community and consistently conducted himself in a professional, courteous and respectful manner. He said that this landmark designation was one small way that we can thank the Petty Family for what it means to this county.

There being no further comments, HLPC Chairman Johnson closed the public hearing for the HLPC.

Commissioner Chairman Holmes closed the public hearing for the County.

The HLPC unanimously approved a resolution recommending that the County Commissioners act to designate the Petty Enterprises site as a local historic landmark.

On motion of Kemp, seconded by Frye, the Randolph County Board of Commissioners unanimously approved the Ordinance Designating the Site of Petty Enterprises as a Local Historic Landmark, as follows:

**Ordinance Designating the Site of Petty Enterprises, ca. 1949, as a Local Historic Landmark in
Randolph County, North Carolina**

WHEREAS, Chapter 160A, Article 19, Part 3C of the North Carolina General Statutes provides for the designation of Local Historic Landmarks; and

WHEREAS, the Randolph County Historic Landmark Commission and the Randolph County Board of Commissioners have taken into full consideration all statements and information contained in the Landmark Designation report for the site of Petty Enterprises, Ca., 1949; and

WHEREAS, the North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources, State Historic Preservation Office, has reviewed the Local Landmark application and noted that the historical report provides the Randolph County Board of Commissioners with enough information to determine whether the site of Petty Enterprises has the requisite special significance and integrity for Local Historic Landmark designation; and

WHEREAS, the Randolph County Historic Landmark Commission and the Randolph County Board of Commissioners have held the required public hearings and published legal notices with mailings to adjoining property owners; and

WHEREAS, the Randolph County Historic Landmark Commission has adopted a unanimous resolution requesting the Board of County Commissioners to designate the site of Petty Enterprises as a Local Historic Landmark; and

WHEREAS, on December 3, 2007, the Randolph County Board of Commissioners adopted the following **Proclamation Honoring Petty Enterprises and the Petty Family** as a special tribute to the Petty family legacy:

WHEREAS, Petty Enterprises has been a distinctive Randolph County landmark since its inception in 1949; and

WHEREAS, the racing accomplishments of the Pettys are unprecedented in the racing industry; and

WHEREAS, Richard Petty has brought honor and recognition to Randolph County through his role of goodwill ambassador for racing fans everywhere; and

WHEREAS, the Petty name is synonymous with commitment, family, community, dedication, innovation, and leadership.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT PROCLAIMED, that the Randolph County Board of Commissioners recognizes and honors Petty Enterprises and, in particular, Richard and Linda Petty, for their ever-apparent love for their fellow Randolph County citizens, as evidenced in their community involvement in charitable and civic activities, including Lynda's 16 years as a Randolph County Board of Education member and Richard's 13 years as a Randolph County Commissioner;

BE IT FURTHER PROCLAIMED that the prestige and significant contributions that the Pettys and Petty Enterprises have brought to Randolph County are, and will forever be immeasurable.

WHEREAS, the Randolph County Board of Commissioners finds that the site of the ca. 1949 Petty Enterprises meets the following specific criteria outlined in the adopting Ordinance: (1) The site of Petty Enterprises is a critical part of Randolph County's heritage by having value as an example of the cultural, economic, historic, and social heritage of Randolph County; and (2) the site of Petty Enterprises provides a unique and distinctive location which represents an established and familiar visual presence in Randolph County; and (3) the site is associated with the Petty family and its special legacy which has significantly contributed to the cultural, economic, social, and historic development of Randolph County; and

WHEREAS, this site is more specifically described as follows:

The exteriors of the original Petty Race Shop, ca. 1949, and related buildings reflected on the official site map maintained by the Randolph County Planning Department as buildings #2, 3, 4, and 5, which total approximately 11,000 sq. ft. out of a 30.46-acre tract, PIN# 7768217086, and the exterior of the Toomes-Petty House, ca. 1925, reflected on the official site plan map as building #1 which consists of approximately 1700 sq. ft. out of a 3.4-acre tract, PIN# 7767295719, located at 311 Branson Mill Road, Randleman, Level Cross Township, Randolph County, N.C.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED, by the Randolph County Board of Commissioners, that:

- 1: The site of Petty Enterprises, Level Cross Township, located within the planning jurisdiction of the County of Randolph, North Carolina, is hereby designated as a Local Historic Landmark pursuant to Chapter 160A, Article 19, Part 3C, of the North Carolina General Statutes.*
- 2: The site of Petty Enterprises is the location of an activity where the location itself possesses historic and cultural value regardless of existing structures which may be materially altered, restored, remodeled, or demolished following the issuance of a Certificate of Appropriateness from the Randolph County Historic Landmark Commission.*
- 3: That the Petty Enterprises Family Association accepts notice as required by applicable law of this action, and County planning staff are directed to file copies of this Ordinance with the Randolph County Register of Deeds and other applicable agencies.*

Upon motion of Kemp, and a second by Frye, the foregoing Local Historic Landmark Ordinance was passed upon its first reading by a vote of 5 to 0.

This Ordinance shall be in full force and effect from and after the date of its passage.

Commissioner Chairman Holmes and HLPC Chairman Johnson, on behalf of both boards, presented a landmark plaque to Richard Petty and family.

Both Richard Petty and Rebecca Petty Moffitt expressed their appreciation for this designation.

The HLPC adjourned.

At 6:50 pm, there being no further business, the meeting was adjourned by the Board of Commissioners.

J. Harold Holmes, Chairman

Darrell L. Frye

Phil Kemp

Arnold Lanier

Stan Haywood

Cheryl A. Ivey, Clerk to the Board