The thirteenth meeting of the Hailey Historic Preservation Commission was called to order at 6:40 p.m. by vice chair Anna Mathieu. Commission members Teddie Daley, Joan Davies, Julie Evans, Laura Hall, Taylor Walker, and Rob Lonning were present.

Rob Lonning reported on the status of the demolition ordinance. At the June 26th meeting, the Hailey City Council decided to proceed with establishment of an Historic District (HD) for Hailey. They stipulated that policies and regulations for the HD be developed concurrently with the district. The demolition ordinance would be part of those policies and regulations. Teddie Daley moved that a subcommittee be formed to follow up on the development of the HD. Julie Evans seconded the motion. It was passed unanimously. Rob Lonning will chair the subcommittee.

Anna Mathieu asked for volunteers for a subcommittee to work with Denise Jackson Ford on developing language for preservation of heritage trees, as per Denise’s request. Taylor Walker expressed concern about the appropriateness of HHPC taking major responsibility for this issue. He suggested Parks and Lands board might be better suited. Joan Davies suggested exploring the possibility of a joint Parks & Lands/HHPC subcommittee. Julie Evans volunteered to work with Denise on pursuing the issue.

Draft design review guidelines from Lisa Horowitz were discussed. It was recognized that National Historic Register guidelines might be overly restrictive for average homeowners. It was agreed that 19th century window and door materials, for example, might be incompatible with 21st century energy costs. Julie Evans expressed concerns about over burdening small business owners, interested in preserving/restoring downtown buildings, with overly restrictive design review guidelines. If restoration becomes too costly/difficult, property owners might be forced to demolish old buildings instead of renovating. Anna Mathieu pointed out the need to become more familiar with NHR guidelines. Anna asked Laura Hall and Rob Lonning to look into NHR guidelines. Developing appropriate design review guidelines will be a major task in establishing the historic district. It was decided to ask Kathy Grotto to pull the draft design review guidelines relating to historic buildings (structures of merit) pending the implementation process for the historic district.

The draft report from Claudia Walsworth was discussed. Taylor Walker recommended Claudia be invited to the July HHPC meeting to discuss the report and answer questions. Anna requested that commission members become familiar with the report before then. It was suggested that a future CLG grant could be used to continue the process of researching Hailey’s historic buildings as recommended in the report.

Teddie Daley, Laura Hall and Joan Davies gave an update on the Blaine County Historical Museum fundraising effort. The Heritage Court ceremony was very successful. The wonderful program honored the Ladies and the local communities involved. Teddie described efforts to solicit funding from a private donor. D. L. Evans bank has offered to provide a mortgage if a donor could be found to purchase the building for the museum. The museum board is waiting for the Blaine County Commission budget hearings to request support from the county.

The subcommittee on preservation incentives gave its report. Taylor Walker explained that TDR’s are one possible incentive. The key is to find desirable, workable preservation incentive credits.
(PIC’s). There was some discussion of façade easements and how they provide a guarantee of preservation. The subcommittee indicated they were still in the early stages of research.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 PM.

The next regular meeting of the HHPC is July 25 at City Hall.