

MINUTES of the September 17, 2019 MEETING of the Commission

Adopted: 10/15/2019

Commenced on Tuesday September 17, 2019 7:30pm

Members Present: Gail Littlefield, Wendy Harris, Kirk Greenway (alternate)

Attendees: Bryant Foreman

Members Absent: Bob Booher, David Stopak, Mimi Styles, Darrell Andersen

Approval of Agenda: The agenda was approved.

Adoption of Minutes:

Meeting Minutes dated August 20, 2019 were reviewed and approved.

Review Session:

500 McCauley Street – Shed construction

- * Owner, Mary Warfield was not in attendance

- * A review was conducted.

- * Gail to issue HPC Review

412 Fourth Avenue – Foreman Residence

- * Bryant Foreman, the owner, was present

- * Gail to issue HPC Review

Old Business:

Updating and Expanding the 1980 National Register (NR) of Historic Places Historic District
Nomination progress report was given by Wendy

Daria received emailed comments from Peter Kurtz of Maryland Historic Trust on August 29, 2019. He had issues with two of the proposed expansions to the District's boundaries, the 500 block of Brown Street and the Ridge Road extension. He agreed with the other district expansions. These include: the Conservation Meadow, the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad Corridor, including the eligible Humpback Bridge (already listed in the NR), portions of the Oakmont Subdivision (including Hershey's Restaurant and two other buildings), the Commercial Corner; and three residences on the West side of Washington Grove Lane.

Bob, Daria and Wendy consulted with Peter on this, and the end result was that the Ridge Road extension will be included but the 500 block of Brown Street will not. The only caveat being a majority of the property owners in each of these new Historic District expansions must consent to their inclusion in the District. Maryland Historic Trust (MHT) has sent out a letter to each property owner explaining the meaning and benefits of NR listing and offering opportunity to comment. The town also received a copy, and Wendy shared this with the HPC. As of this writing, the MHT had received one response. It was from Robert White, the owner of 16960 Oakmont Avenue, whom Peter described as

“adamantly opposed” to the expansion of the District’s southern boundary. In the event that a majority of property owners within any of the expanded areas object to being included in the Historic District, we will revise the mapped boundaries and the boundary justification text.

According to Peter, he has only a few small edit and technical questions, so these are the extent of his comments. The rest of our consultation with him has been about process. The next step is to forward the nomination “As Is” with Peter’s recommendation to the Governor’s Consulting Committee on the National Register of Historic Places for review. They will meet on October 15 (Crownsville, MD MHT Offices) and we can plan to attend if we wish. When it is approved, it gets sent to the National Park Service, which is where the National Register is housed. First, however, it will be briefly returned to Daria and Michael so they can do whatever revisions Peter has requested. Because some of our proposed expansions takes in property under the jurisdiction of Gaithersburg and Montgomery County (both Certified Local Governments), they will also review the nomination. They have a 60-day review period. Finally, the nomination goes to the National Park Service, which has a 45-day review period. Peter predicts that the nomination will finally be approved in early 2020.

Comprehensive Plan update:

There will be a meeting of the planning commission on September 18, 2019. Nothing further was added on 8 Circle. WSSC work was mentioned. Placement of the terracotta laterals is not exactly known. Both water and sewer are beneath Grove Ave. Greenstone 1” gravel recoating will be laid.

Town Council Report

Town Council Report from Darrell will be given at the next meeting.

New Business:

Visit by University of Maryland Historical Preservation Program

On September 26, 2019, Dennis Pogue and this program will visit Washington Grove

Amity Road expansion to Crabbs Branch Road is reaching project phase.

In the scoping phase, it is planned to connect through lower field to the county park. This is planned concurrently with the bike path. We need to ask Darrell when John Thomas is visiting.

Adjourned at 9:00pm.

The next meeting will be Tuesday, October 15, 2019 at 7:30 PM in the McCathran Hall meeting room.

Kirk Greenway