

**MINUTES of the August 17, 2021 MEETING of the Commission
(via Zoom)**

**August 19, 2021
Adopted: 9/21/21**

Members Present: Bob Booher, Gail Littlefield, Mimi Styles, David Stopak, Wendy Harris, Liaison Darrell Anderson

1.1 Approval of Agenda

The proposed agenda was revised by deferring topics 3.2.1, 3.2.2, 3.3.2 and 3.5 and was adopted unanimously.

1.2 Adoption of Minutes

A draft of the May minutes was distributed by Gail for review and supplementing by the Commission. Bob offered to review against his notes and resubmit.

2.1 Project Review

The Comcast PWPP permit application for overlashing a fiberoptic cable along Railroad, Maple Avenue, Brown Street and Washington Grove Lane was discussed, but no formal review was initiated due to lack of sufficient information. Instead, Gail and Bob drafted a memo to Planning Commissioner Georgette Cole outlining the preservation issues, requesting further information and inclusion in the site meeting the PC will request to review their required tree plan.

Old Business:

3.1 Bike Path Process

Wendy had distributed comments regarding the environmental and historic impacts of the 3 alternative routes proposed by MCDOT. These focus on the forested buffer and archeological resources. David had volunteered to outline the overall impacts on the Grove and also address the impacts of the thru-the-Meadow path previously suggested by the HPC. These comments were not yet ready to review. David will complete and distribute and the HPC will call another meeting in August to review. David suggested that this latter path was principally an alternative to the path to Amity outlined in the MCDOT document that went thru the lower meadow. It is not clear whether this path is in the current budgeted project or in the Crabbs Branch/Amity roadway connector project that is only in feasibility study phase. Bob and David will consolidate comments with Wendy's into a single memo on HPC letterhead and distribute. This will be in addition to entries in the Task Force spreadsheet. Wendy suggested Bob contact MCDOT regarding the status of the Sheladia Assoc. Environmental and historic resources study.

3.2 Historic Landscape Resources

Deferred.

3.3 Joint Meeting MAHDC/PC/HPC/TC:

3.3.1 David has contacted the MAHDC representative with three dates in September selected along with the Town Council. These are September 22, 14 and 28 in order of preference. Mimi will be away for the two dates later in the month. The agenda will be a single topic – presentation of information about demolition and what can be done to regulated it. Other related preservation topics

are sure to be discussed in that context. It was decided to add preparation for this to the additional August meeting.

3.3.2 Conservation Districts – Gail suggested David forward the link for the Brunswick Conservation District to MAHDC

3.4 Committee Reports:

3.4.1 Border Committee – Bob reported that the three vehicular signs are being bid out. In addition, four of the five pedestrian intersections have the fencing installed, and two have wooden street signs already. Peter had contacted Susan Van Nostrand to begin fabrication of new signs for the other intersections.

3.5 Masonry Restoration Scope:

Mimi distributed photos of the masonry elements that need work. Gail will write up notes about the scope of work to be considered at each.

3.6 Bulletin Material:

Mimi will provide a section on the Progressive Era of the Grove from the Register Documents.

3.7 PC Meeting Report

Mimi summarized issues discussed in the PC meeting including special exception for a church use at the Commercial Corner and execution of the Forest Buffer at the Cator Property.

Town Council Report

Darrell summarized his report provided via email.

New Business:

4.1 Changes to Architectural Study:

As a result of the PWPP review of 315 Grove Ave., Jane Seegal pointed out an error in the description of her siding and requested it be corrected in the review and in the study. We will need to discuss a procedure for doing “errata” in the studies.

4.2 MoCo Solar APP reviews:

Montgomery County has adopted a streamlined online permit process to speed up approval of residential solar projects. It does not include a zoning or Historic Preservation review. We will need to develop guidelines and work with the County to integrate into this process.

4.3 Hansen Comments on the Comprehensive Plan

Bob had distributed a response to the comments provide by Marc and Peggy Hansen advising against including the recommendation to investigation a historic preservation ordinance. It was approved to send onto the Planning Commission.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at roughly 10 pm. The next regular meeting will be Tuesday, September 21 at 7:30pm via Zoom.

- Robert Booher