

The Town of Washington Grove Historic Preservation Commission

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**MINUTES of the December 15, 2020 MEETING of the Commission
(via Zoom)**

**Dec. 15, 2020
Adopted: TBD**

Members Present: Bob Booher, Gail Littlefield, Mimi Styles, David Stopak, Wendy Harris, Darrell Anderson -TC Liaison, Jeff McCrehan – Alternate

The meeting began approximately 7:30 p.m.

Official Business

1.1 Approval of Agenda

The agenda was approved with minor changes.

1.2 Adoption of Minutes

The adoption of the Nov. 20, 2020 minutes was postponed to the January meeting.

Guest Appearances

None

Old Business:

3.1 Woods Protection Ordinance

Discussion of the latest iteration of the Woods Protection Ordinance, the specificity of ordinances, and whether additional language requested would be in the actual ordinance or in a following resolution or regulation. It was noted there will be a January 11, 2021 public hearing re: same.

Discussion of whether the HPC wanted to take on the ‘removal of fossil’s’ issue. It was agreed Wendy will discuss the matter with Charlie Challstrom.

3.2 Racial Equity

3.2.1 Ad hoc Committee

Gail reported she had attended only one meeting of this ad hoc committee, earlier in the year.

3.2.2 Historic Material

Wendy has continued an archival exploration of minstrelsy and black face in the Grove from 1909-1932. It was agreed we need to wait a few months before presenting to the Town, and that we needed to have people gather face-to-face, i.e., wait until the COVID pandemic is over.

Gail suggested a possible future project might be the study of Emory Grove.

3.3 Historic landscape resources

3.3.1 Map noting historic public sites

Jeff reported he had a physical draft map ready for the HPC to consider, and will forward at least a digital copy to members. It was also agreed to run the map by the Planning Commission for their comments. It was noted Steve Werts did a hand sketch of the historic culverts, and that the fire department and/or WSSC could use a map.

3.3.2 Committee Monitoring

Discussion of HPC members monitoring activities of other committees for an HPC nexus. Each member has agreed to follow the agendas of one or two Town Committees in order to ascertain any possible HPC nexus of concern.

3.3.3 Public ways review criteria

Gail reported that the issue was raised, but nothing as yet has been done.

3.4 NR Related

Discussion of how better to locate National Register information on the Town website. Jeff and Wendy agreed to speak with Marida Hines about this issue.

3.4.2 Appendices

Mimi noted the appendices to the National Register project were now ready to be bound; a cover noting “Related Studies to the National Register Nomination” and short table of contents will be added. Bob asked that bound copies be made for each HPC member.

3.5 Masterplan status

Bob, David et al have finalized their comments on the Master Plan and sent them to Georgette Cole and Tom Land. Bob noted the discussion of a potential solar array in the lower field, and the need to keep tree planting going due to tree losses to weather, water, and drought.

The sustainability group is still working to produce a larger document and a climate action plan.

3.5.2 Orphan resources review

Gail reported progress on the “orphan resources” issue was imminent.

3.6 Shady Grove Sector Plan/MARC line

Gail reported she wrote a letter with Bob raising possible challenges regarding the MARC 3rd rail project, noting there is no hearing until 2021.

3.8 Fireplace and masonry restoration

Fireplace and masonry restoration – Gail noted she had the names of three individuals who are expert in this area; Bob agreed to take on this project.

3.10 Bulletin material

Mimi noted writing a piece on the early development of the Commercial Corner for the January issue.

3.11 Planning Commission Report

Gail mentioned one topic of interest was refining the public ways permit process, and changing the language to include “and historic features.” Bob will send to the Town Council.

The Town attorney advised that the racial covenants that are part of the Hansen’s deed can be removed through a request from the Hansens to the State Attorney. Steps to terminate the restrictive setback covenant on the Hansen property are proceeding. A public hearing is scheduled for Monday, January 21.

No movement on the Salt Barn issue.

The Border Committee is considering an “identity fence” along WG lane. Residents feel burdened by the high-speed traffic, and the idea is that a fence will help with that issue.

Discussion of the ongoing work by the Border Committee regarding a mention of WG’s Historic Status, and it was agreed Bob would submit this wording to be added to the signs entering the Town: “National Historic Register. 1873.”

New Business

4.1 The storm water remediation committee has disbanded; Gray Yachup is in charge of “small problems that come up” but HPC noted a need to resurrect this committee.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 9:45 p.m.

Jeff McCrehan