

**MINUTES of the November 15, 2022. MEETING of the Commission
(via Zoom)**

Adopted: December 20, 2022

Members Present: The meeting began at approximately 7:30 p.m. Bob Booher, David Stopak, Mimi Styles, Marilynn Frey (alternate) and Wendy Harris were present. Jeff McCrehan was absent. Darrell Anderson, having just resigned from the Town Council, did not participate. Peter Nagrod, PC Chair, joined for the Review Session and Welcome Sign corrections discussion.

Approval of Agenda

Minor amendments to the proposed agenda were proposed, and the revised agenda was unanimously approved.

Adoption of Minutes

Approval of the minutes of the October 18 HPC meeting, prepared by Marilynn, was deferred to the December meeting.

Review of Projects

404 4th Avenue – Susan Van Nostrand/Kevin Ambrose Request to Purchase Two Parcels of Property.

The purchase request was discussed in detail. It is unclear to HPC whether Article XVII applies to both the parcel adjacent to Acorn Lane and the 4th Avenue parcel, or to just the latter parcel. HPC will seek clarification from the Town Council whether the previous 1988 Ordinance naming Judy Banachowski as owner of the Acorn Lane parcel applies to the current owners. It would seem to be not applicable and likely replaced by Article XVII. If that is the case, then the survey of the Acorn Lane parcel should be resubmitted to include only the portions of their home that are on Town land.

HPC will begin the preparation of our document (Exhibit C) describing the portions of the structure on town land to accompany the ordinance under Article XVII. It will require a fair amount of research and preparation, so the Town Council is being advised that it will not be available for their December meeting.

To this end, Mimi will start taking photos, Bob will do a “site visit” to inventory the character-defining (historic integrity features) and we will ask for Pat Patula’s help with archival material pertaining to 404 4th Avenue.

Corrections to Gateway Signs

Peter reported that correction to the Gateway signs had been discussed at the previous evening’s Town Council meeting, with particular focus on punctuation. Wendy cautioned that some of the recent back-and-forth emails between TC members were not limited to punctuation but rather changes had been made to her suggested “Historic District” wording. Peter assured that Wendy’s wording will be used (possibly to include punctuation). He will get sign-off from

the mayor to proceed with corrections to the three existing signs, at a cost of \$2,000. The original cost of the signs was \$15,000.

Planning Commission Meeting

David was unable to attend the November PC meeting; Peter said he could not recall items of particular interest to HPC at the meeting.

150th-Year Celebration

Bob reported that the topic was discussed at the November Town Council meeting. Mayor Compton wants to establish co-chairs of an ad hoc committee to put it together. HPC should evaluate whether the booklet compiled by Chris Reber would be appropriate to be included in sponsored celebration materials.

Pat Patula's proposed booklet remains of interest, and Bob recommended that old maps be included. Marilyn suggested selling the booklets as a fundraising activity.

Bob reminded that the Town's 125th celebration included a "camp out" and baseball game, which were well-received, and suggested that the 150th year celebration might include these same activities -- and be combined with the July 4 celebrations. If we merge the anniversary celebration with the July 4th events, additional volunteers for planning and executing may be available. Marilynn volunteered to be part of the organizing efforts.

It will also be the 150th anniversary for the railroad; Bob reported that Gail Littlefield had volunteered to be the Town's contact person for the Railroad's celebration, so perhaps we can fold whatever the railroad is doing into some of our celebrations.

Bob suggested that we physically stake out the footprint of the buildings we have lost – the Auditorium, the Hotel, the Tabernacle, and the train station.

Historic Context Report, Washington Grove Architectural Features

Wendy was complimented on the report she prepared for the Montgomery County Parks Archaeology Division; it was distributed to HPC members before the meeting. Wendy will consider whether the document should be provided to the TC; she will discuss this with the Archeology Division. Wendy also reported that the MCDOT contractor has started to do "geotech" (boring) work in the lower field (for the Amity – Crabbs Branch connector and bike path); they are getting very close to the "Washington Grove Steatite Quarry and Agricultural Features" site. Apparently, they had not coordinated with the Archeology Division before starting their work. Wendy has contacted Heather Bouslog to advise of the situation.

Preservation/Demolition Ordinance and Corrections to Architectural Survey

David had nothing to report on these agenda items. However, Bob reported that he had been contacted by Jane Seegal who inquired about the status of the change to the description of her house in the survey document. David suggested that Bob should put Jane in touch with him.

Bulletin Material

The series of articles based on excerpts from Robinson & Associates' Historic Context Report continues. The December bulletin will include a piece about the summer resort aspect of

Washington Grove. Links to the full Historic Context Report will be included for those who wish to read more.

TC Meeting Report

In his written report provided to HPC, Darrell Anderson confirmed his resignation from the TC. Bob pointed out the Gateway Committee's action on extending the Grove Avenue Walkway from McCauley to Washington Grove Lane. Brush has been cleared, fill dirt and gravel are coming. Identity fencing and signs are planned for this entrance, located directly across from Daylily Lane -- providing a nice link for residents who live on the west side of Washington Grove Lane.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:15 pm.

The next meeting will be Tuesday, December 20, at 7:30pm via Zoom.