

**MINUTES of the January 17, 2023 Meeting of the Commission
(via Zoom)**

Adopted: February 21, 2023

Members Present: The meeting began at approximately 7:35 p.m. Bob Booher, David Stopak, Mimi Styles, Marilynn Frey (alternate) and Wendy Harris were present. Jeff McCrehan was absent. Rob Gilmore, TC liaison also participated.

Approval of Agenda

There were no changes to the proposed agenda, and it was unanimously approved.

Adoption of Minutes

Minutes of the December 22 meeting were unanimously approved, without changes.

Review of Projects – 3 Daylily Lane

HPC reviewed the single-car-garage addition to the existing attached two-car garage at 3 Daylily Lane. Mimi will prepare the written review of the project for the usual distribution.

150th-Year Celebration

Bob reported that Meredith Horan and Peter Nagrod have been appointed co-chairs responsible for planning the event. Meredith is currently taking the lead and has prepared a schedule of four days of events to be held August 10-13 (the first camp meeting took place in August 1873).

Events on Thursday and Friday will be via Zoom, with in-person events scheduled for Saturday and Sunday. They will include presentations by Town poets, a presentation by Gail Littlefield about the railroad, Phil Edwards' presentations on successive nights about each of his two Washington Grove books. Bob will lead a town tour starting at the railroad on Saturday, and there will be activities for children at Acorn library. Games on the field, Saturday, band music and a potluck in McCathran Hall Saturday evening, followed by a memorial-type event at the Sacred Circle, and a camp-out in Woodward Park for those who are interested. On Sunday, a service at the church is planned, tennis games, an "alumni meeting" of folks who grew up in town.

The posters that had been prepared of "lost structures" (Tabernacle, Auditorium, Hotel) will be on display. Other "lost" structures include the train station and men's club building. Bob reminded of his pet project to temporarily mark the footprints of those lost structures for the anniversary (to be marked either simultaneously or sequentially.) Marilynn reminded that 123 Chestnut served as a "ticket house" for WG camp meeting participation – perhaps it could also be identified in some way.

Starting in March, and each month leading up to the August celebration, Meredith has started planning for additional events – some ideas were identifying the oldest and "champion" trees, the history of tennis in the Grove, cottage & garden tour, etc., perhaps in conjunction with the Woman's Club annual flower show.

HPC then discussed the fence and gate that surrounded Washington Grove from approximately 1891 to at least 1910 and whether we would want to acknowledge its existence in some physical way on the occasion of the 150th Anniversary, perhaps for a limited period of time. The gate was likely at the intersection of Railroad Street and Grove Avenue. It is recognized that this is a sensitive topic, and any actions will need to be considered carefully.

Just before the meeting, Wendy had distributed her timeline about the fence & gate as well as an interesting article from The Atlantic by Clint Smith about physical Holocaust memorials in Germany, and how we construct public memory, which informed our discussion. If the physical acknowledgement of the fence/gate were to be permanent, it probably should be somewhat abstract/representative. Maps, photographs, and explanatory text at a kiosk were suggested. How an acknowledgement of the fence and gate ties in with the Border Committee's series of fenced open entrances was considered. Bob will introduce the topic at the next 150th planning meeting.

The brochure suggested and drafted by Pat Patula, based on archival "News Dispatches from Other Centuries" that were included in Town bulletins some five years ago, was discussed. Bob reported that Pat's brochure plan was well received at the anniversary planning meeting. Bob will provide the lead, Judy Mroczka has offered editing, and Marilyn has volunteered to work on it as well. Town artists will be solicited to provide illustrations. Marilyn had previously suggested that the Town consider selling the booklet to cover the cost of printing.

RASEC Resolution

Bob related that a resident had contacted him about the number and tone of Resolution "whereas" statements, objecting not to the resolution itself but to its tone, objecting as well as to attaching full documents (vs. footnotes). The resident felt this could be detrimental to the Town's reputation, as one doesn't have a lot of control over internet content. Washington Grove's identification as a "sundown town" on the Wikipedia page was given as an example.

Preservation/Demolition Ordinance

The PC has started reviewing related topics at their second meetings of the month. Bob and David have set a date for Friday February 10, 2pm, to start outlining areas of concern to HPC for communication to the PC.

Corrections to Architectural Survey

David reported he had distributed the correction document to all eleven homeowners for their concurrence or further comments. Some residents did not realize that their input would be shown as a "comment" entry (versus a straight correction in the text). David will follow up with the homeowners who have not yet replied.

Some time ago, Marilyn had converted the Architectural Survey PDF into a WORD document. Homeowner comments will need to be added at the end of the respective house entries in the WORD document, and the modified document in PDF form will then need to be forwarded to Christine Dibble for posting on the Town website.

Bulletin Material

For February, Mimi plans an excerpt from Robinson & Associates' 2019 Cultural Landscape Analysis details the value ascribed to plant material by Washington Grove's founders and successive leaders and residents.

Planning Commission Meeting

Marilyn attended the PC meeting, but there did not seem to be much of great interest to HPC.

TC Meeting Report

Rob reported that it was an unusually short meeting. There was no further discussion/action on the Van Nostrand/ Ambrose request to purchase the Acorn Lane strip of land that abuts their property. 150th Anniversary planning was briefly discussed.

Budget

Bob presented HPC's budget planning document from last year. He has not received "spent-to-date" data from Jean Moyer; it will likely be provided at a meeting scheduled for the week of January 23. Marilyn reported that she is trying to get our archives software converted to "PastPerfect Online" which will provide more flexibility and would enable Pat to work from home. The online version will be more expensive, but some of the outlay will be offset since the cost of periodic updates required for the current PastPerfect software can be avoided with the online version. Marilyn also reported that PastPerfect had provided a list of inconsistencies with our current PastPerfect files that need to be corrected before we can upgrade to PastPerfect Online. Marilyn will check with Pat to see how that work is progressing.

During the meeting, Marilyn forwarded to Bob the budget information that she had submitted last year for PastPerfect and Records Management expenses.

In past years, Pat Patula has provided an annual report in advance of the budgeting process, but her recent work schedule has been impacted by personal health issues and her family's health issues, and no report has been received yet. Bob will follow up with Pat.

PC Meeting Coverage

Jeff McCrehan is scheduled to cover PC in February. Bob will contact him; if he's not able to attend, Wendy, who is scheduled to cover the March meeting, will be tapped to cover February. Next month, setting a new PC coverage schedule will be on the agenda.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 9:00 pm.

The next meeting will be Tuesday, February 21, at 7:30 pm via Zoom.