

**MINUTES of the April 18, 2023, MEETING of the Commission  
(via Zoom)**

**Adopted May 16, 2023**

**Members Present**

The meeting began at approximately 7:35 p.m. Bob Booher, Marilynn Frey, Wendy Harris, Jeff McCrehan, David Stopak, Mimi Styles, and Rob Gilmore, TC liaison were present. Patty Klein and Joan Mahaffey, representing the Woods Committee, also participated, particularly in the Whetstone Spring restoration discussion.

**Approval of Agenda**

Two items were added to the agenda, the order of items was modified, and it was unanimously approved.

**Adoption of Minutes**

Minutes of the March 21 meeting were unanimously approved, without changes.

**Review of Projects**

There were no projects presented for review.

**Whetstone Spring Restoration**

Wendy prefaced by stating that HPC's interest in the restoration project championed by the Woods Committee stems from Whetstone Spring's status as a contributing site and a resource named in the Washington Grove Historic District nomination. Joan took Wendy on a site visit to Whetstone Spring and reviewed what the restoration project would involve. Wendy presented a 1961 photograph taken by Joan's brother, Jim, that shows then-extant stonework and the spring's capstone.

A secondary spring, whose source is protected by a large rock, was also discussed, as well as the likelihood that indigenous remains are not associated with the site. It is proposed to include the secondary spring in the restoration project. Wendy presented historic photos of springs located elsewhere that substantiated their use for drinking water for farm animals as well as for humans (the latter, as evidenced by ladles on capstones). Large stones scattered in the Whetstone stream bed would be used in the restoration to reinforce the mud banks to stop erosion. The 1961 photo will be the guiding model for the restoration.

Trucks associated with the restoration will be parked outside the woods, and permission will be sought from Gaithersburg to enter through Kelley Field, which is close to the spring site. Bob stressed that the project needs to be supervised to ensure no machinery damage is done, "as is" condition photos before the restoration will need to be taken, a write-up prepared of work done, and the completed restoration should be photographed. The scale of the masonry structure can be deduced. Mayor Compton has asked for a drawing of the planned restoration. Marilyn commented that the photograph could be turned into a line drawing. As Allan Janus has been very

helpful to Joan with similar matters in the past, she'll ask him for his help in creating the line drawing.

### **Annual Renovation Award**

Prior to the March meeting, Mimi had prepared a summary document, with photographs, of the various award candidates. It was reviewed again at the April meeting, and the HPC unanimously chose 411 Grove Avenue as recipient of this year's award.

### **150<sup>th</sup>-Year Celebration**

**Robinson & Associates NR Presentation** - Bob reported that he had contacted Daria Gasparini, who has agreed to make a presentation on June 24. It was agreed that an in-person presentation is preferable, but the possibility of a hybrid meeting, and its potential complications/limitations, was also discussed.

**Woman's Club Cottage and Garden Tour** - Marilyn confirmed that the tour is scheduled for Sunday, May 21. The Woman's Club is scheduled to meet later in the week to finalize plans. For the planned hand-out, Marilyn has volunteered to research the homes that are included in the tour.

**Fence and Gateway Info Panels** - The Gateway Committee has asked for more information about Bob's proposal to document the fence and gates. Archival photos, maps, and writings about the fence were discussed. Farmers were likely upset that they could no longer use the road (Broadway/Grove Avenue) through the Camp Meeting grounds to access the railroad. However, it was concluded that HPC will not have adequate time to prepare informational plaques before the August anniversary events.

**Missing buildings layout/posters** - Bob has started researching building locations, dimensions, etc. David has volunteered to help with the project. The Auditorium, Hotel and Tabernacle will be marked out. The boys' and girls' athletic clubs may be included.

**Tour handouts** - Bob will prepare these.

**Masonry restoration** - Bob had hoped to speak with some masonry contractors but has yet to do so. In addition to the fireplace in Woodward Park there are several roadside stone walls and culverts that are deteriorating. Regarding the fireplace, whether the illegible plaster inscription should be restored/recreated is to be decided (if we can determine what was once inscribed). The desired degree of functionality of the restored fireplace also needs to be determined.

**B&O Railroad, Metropolitan Branch, 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary commemorative events** were discussed, based on information forwarded by Gail Littlefield. Various lectures are scheduled around the county in May, culminating with a train excursion to Brunswick on May 29<sup>th</sup>.

### **Budget - Border Fund Increase**

Bob reported that he had made a pitch to increase the contribution to the border property fund from \$10,000 to \$30,000/year, and to enable the Town to use the funds to acquire contributing properties within the town that risk demolition; acquire/relocate contributing structures to prevent them from being demolished; and repair/renovate any acquired house for use by the

Town (museum, house parts storage, etc.) The fund is currently valued at \$160,000, and for the first three years, \$30,000/year was put into the fund, earmarked to acquire properties beyond Town borders and associated legal fees. The fund allows for quick action, as a Town Meeting would otherwise be required for any budget increase. Bob's pitch in the budget planning meeting met with some resistance, as HPC had no defined program for its suggestion. However, Bob subsequently spoke with John Compton, who supports the idea and subsequently reintroduced it to the TC. For now, the definition of what the fund can be used for has not changed; that will be a task passed along to the next TC.

### **RASEC Resolution Timeline**

HPC's comments on the RASEC resolution, as well as the Timeline that Wendy compiled, based on material in the Town Archives, are now included on the Town website. Wendy reported that Christine Dibble has asked whether she can access Association minutes in the Town Hall. Copies of the scanned originals should be available in the Town Office, and the minutes should also be available electronically via PastPerfect Online.

### **Preservation/Demolition Ordinance**

David will attend the Planning Commission work session that's scheduled for April 19. David felt mansionization issues should probably be postponed to a subsequent meeting. David presented an outline that he and Bob had drafted. David will distribute the latest version to HPC. Marilyn volunteered to attend the work session.

### **Bulletin Material**

For May, Mimi plans a short piece with links to the "Video Gallery" on the Town website, where eight videos spanning 1989-2022 can be found.

### **Planning Commission Meeting**

Marilyn attended the April PC Meeting and reported that no topics of particular interest to HPC were discussed.

### **TC Meeting Report**

Rob Gilmore reported that a new committee, comprised of 3 TC members (Christine Dibble, Barbara Raimondo, and Sylvie Favret) and a RASEC committee member, will work on a revised version of the RASEC resolution, taking into consideration the public input from the special town council meeting. Joan Mahaffey said she's not on the committee.

### **Other Business**

David Stopak reported that a fellow master gardener reported having some old streetlights from Washington Grove stored in his Mill Creek garage. Bob and David plan to visit him to examine the fixtures.

### **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 9:05 pm. The next meeting will be Tuesday, May 16, at 7:30pm via Zoom.