

**MINUTES of the October 17, 2023 MEETING of the Commission
(via Zoom)**

Adopted November 21, 2023

Members Present

The meeting began at approximately 7:40 pm. Bob Booher, Wendy Harris, Marilynn Frey, David Stopak, and Mimi Styles were present. Jeff McCrehan and Rob Gilmore, TC liaison, were unable to attend.

Approval of Agenda

Modifications were made to the proposed agenda, and it was unanimously approved.

Adoption of Minutes

The Minutes of the September 19 meeting were unanimously approved.

Review Session

352 Ridge Road – Jeremy Lombardo had submitted a building permit application covering shed-roof awning protections over the basement walk-out and the basement egress window of his home. He was not present at the review. Mimi will prepare HPC's written review of the project, for which it had no suggestions.

150th Year Celebration

"The Grove before the Grove" - Meredith has worked with Wendy in planning a final 150th lecture. Don Housley's presentation, scheduled for Saturday, November 11, is entitled "Peopling of the Americas & Native American Presence in Montgomery County: A 12,000+ Year Story." Don taught U.S. history for 36 years; the last 25 years of his teaching career was as chairman of the Social Studies Department at Wheaton High School. Like Wendy, Don currently volunteers in the Office of Archaeology for Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission (Montgomery County). He also serves as president of the Mid-Potomac Chapter of the Archeological Society of Maryland. From 2016 to 2020 he served as president of the Archeological Society of Maryland. Wendy plans to take him on a tour of the steatite quarry and other archeological features in Town on October 18.

Reprints of Phil Edwards' books

Bob reported that 50 additional copies of each of the two volumes about the history of Washington Grove have been ordered.

Photo archives, videos

Christine Dibble mentioned in the last Town Council meeting that she is working on a webpage dedicated to the 150th anniversary where people can access relevant material.

Congratulations certificates

Mimi has identified the frames that are needed, but they have not yet been obtained.

Film Screening

Montgomery Municipal Cable (MMC) will broadcast the video they have compiled of the Town's anniversary celebration events. Meredith will advise the "screening" date.

Corrections to Architectural Survey

David reported that he has sent the materials for posting on the Town website to Christine Dibble, who is currently out of town. He'll follow up upon her return.

Web Info Update

The current link to contributing and non-contributing resources is obsolete; it does not reflect the updated NR Nomination. To correct this, we will likely provide a link to the pages in the NR nomination document where, in a single compilation, each house is identified as either contributing or non-contributing. The obsolete post shows two separate lists.

We are reminded that our design guidelines must also be updated, especially to reflect the additional, more recent structures, that are now recognized as contributing resources. The original guidelines were essentially based on the original cottages only. Revision of design guidelines should be moved up on HPC's list of priorities.

Bulletin Material

Mimi has not yet identified bulletin material for November. We may skip an insertion next month. Wendy and Meredith will prepare an announcement about Don Housley's November 11 indigenous people presentation.

Planning Commission Meeting

Bob attended the October PC meeting. The PC had solicited resident comments about the proposed ADU ordinance that Charlie has prepared, and the well-attended meeting was essentially devoted to the ADU topic. HPC had provided its comments to the PC before the meeting, for which Georgette has expressed appreciation. Written comments submitted by residents can be found on the Town website.

Planning Commission Meeting Coverage Assignments

Going forward, HPC coverage will be:

November – Marilyn

December – David

January – Wendy

February - Mimi

March – Bob

April - Jeff

Town Council Meeting Report

Rob Gilmore was not present to give an official report. David attended the meeting and said it included an update on the bike path status. Marilyn said there was discussion of the stormwater management report. Bob said it does not seem that the Soltesz report included much engineering; the intent is to go out for a "design/build" contract. Timeline issues vis a vis funding were noted.

Town Tour

Bob related that he had given a presentation and walking tour earlier in the day, at the request of Wendy Weisbard, to a Brandeis group to which she belongs. It was based on Clare Kelly's earlier presentation and included a slide show at the Women's Club and the walking tour Bob most recently refined for the 150th anniversary.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:15 pm. The next meeting will be on Tuesday, December 19, at 7:30 pm via Zoom.