

**MINUTES of the December 19, 2023, MEETING of the Commission
(via Zoom)**

Adopted January 16, 2024

Members Present

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

Approval of Agenda

Minor modifications were made to the proposed agenda, removing 3.4 and 3.9, afterwards it was unanimously approved.

Adoption of Minutes

The Minutes of the November 21, 2023 meeting with minor modifications, were unanimously approved.

Review Session

There were no projects for review.

150th Year Celebration

The 150th Anniversary video link has been sent to John who shared it with the Town Council and Bob confirmed that he will send the link to the HPC.

Archeology Issues

The Comprehensive Plan text was completed in 2022. The Steatite Quarry is not in Section 9 (Preservation) but in the Sensitive Areas and Archeology Concerns section. Wendy has been updating the state site registration to include the stone tools from Needwood Manor. It was noted that the Washington Grove area was possibly inhabited thousands of years earlier than originally thought. The steatite /soapstone has also been used in town construction including the park fireplace.

Ice Harvesting

There was a brief discussion about the Town's history of ice harvesting and the reports by Phil Edwards of a former storage depression on what is now the church property.

Playground Equipment

Wendy sent links regarding historical playgrounds. We should do a writeup from Wendy's research. Bob will talk to Eva.

Corrections to Architectural Survey

A final copy of the corrections from David will be sent by January 10, 2024.

Web Update

As a follow up to last month's discussion about the Contributing Structures section of the Web being very out of date, there was a review of the paragraph(s) in question that indicated a need to summarize the overall natures of the contributing structures as reflected in the updated nomination.

Masonry Restoration

We are still waiting for an estimate of from Dominion Traditional Restoration. If it's less than \$5,000, we'll just do it, but if more they will prepare documents to put it out for bids.

Town Council Report

There was no report as Rob was not present at our meeting.

Review of revised ADU Zoning Text Amendment

David had attended the Planning Commission meeting and reported on the revisions to the proposed ZTA. Many of the HPC recommendations have been accommodated, but approval contingent on the HPC review was not. The PC appears to be in favor of amending it to introduce a similar process to the subdivision approval. This would have the HPC work with the applicant on the design to achieve compatibility with the existing structure, neighborhood and integrity of the historic district. Recommendations would be provided to the PC, who would be enabled to approve contingent on the recommendations. The HPC will consider the text of this amendment at the January meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:58 pm. The next meeting will be January 16, 2024 via Zoom.