

**MINUTES of the March 19, 2024, MEETING of the Commission
(via Zoom)**

Adopted April 16, 2024

Members Present: The meeting began at approximately 7:40 p.m. Bob Booher, Marilynn Frey, Wendy Harris, Mimi Styles and David Stopak were present. Rob Gilmore, TC liaison did not attend. Bill Earl was also present.

Approval of Agenda

The proposed agenda was unanimously approved.

Adoption of Minutes

The minutes of the February meeting were unanimously approved, with a minor modification.

Review Session

HPC reviewed the proposed addition at 201 Cherry Avenue with the participation of homeowner Gary Hayward. Mimi will write up the review.

New Member

Both Bill Earl and Samantha Suzich have expressed interest in serving on the HPC. Bill provided an overview of his background during the meeting, and HPC was unanimous in its support for Bill joining the Commission. Samantha has an MA in Museum Studies which could be especially helpful with HPC's archive responsibility. She related her general interest in historic homes but felt her background might be light on preservation experience. Samantha will be offered the alternate position to better acquaint herself with the commission's activities. Bob will contact Mayor Compton about the appointments. Marilynn's role as Records Officer will continue. In our monthly meetings, her perspective as a "native" resident has been very helpful and her continued attendance is welcome and encouraged.

Archivist

Bob reported that since our last meeting he had been successful in contacting Pat Patula who said she should now be able to resume her duties as archivist. Once Pat returns to the Town Office, Marilynn will encourage her to take the training for "Past Perfect Online" so that we can take advantage of its enhanced capabilities. The issue of granting others permission to publish archival photos was also discussed, and it needs to be further researched.

Corrections to Architectural Survey

David reported that Christine Dibble will start entering Robinson's Architectural Survey information into "House Histories" on the Town website as she has time. Bob noted that another inaccuracy in the Architectural Survey had been discovered when he read HPC's draft review for the proposed changes at 121 Maple Road. (We have made it a practice to include the home's Survey description in our written HPC reviews.) The Survey states that 121 Maple Road was

built by Sam Vogan, which is incorrect. Sam's widow, Kitty, continues to live at 115 Maple Road, and she has confirmed to Bob that Sam built 115 and not 121.

ADU Zoning Text Amendment

A task force of TC members Peter Nagrod, Eva Patron and Barbara Raimondo was established to review the ADU Zoning Text Amendment that had been drafted by the Planning Commission with input from HPC. The proposed changes put forth by the task force at the last Town Council meeting included removal of the clause that David had worked on with the Planning Commission that would enable the PC to act on the recommendations of the HPC (to be managed similarly to subdivision procedures). The task force felt applicant compliance with HPC recommendations should remain entirely voluntary. It was decided that David and Bob will work on refined recommendations to the TC, circulate them to HPC for comment, Bob will present them at next Monday's TC meeting.

Archeological Update

Wendy has prepared a written report on the work that has been done to update the WG steatite quarry registration, and she will circulate it to HPC. Wendy also reported that she and David had made a site visit to the quarry, and she will document that as well.

Phil Edwards Presentation

Montgomery History will provide the recording of Phil's presentation, and we will ask Christine Dibble about the best way to make it available from the Town website.

Bulletin Material

For the April bulletin, Mimi has not identified a topic, but will try to prepare an entry.

Planning Commission Meeting

Bob attended the March PC meeting. Gary Hayward's building permit application had come to the PC; action is postponed pending HPC's review of the project. The owner of 201 Washington Grove Lane (at the intersection with Oak Street) is in discussion with the Town about a shed, driveway, and fencing, though no permit applications have been filed. Andrew Hotaling had requested paving a portion of Sixth Avenue to allow easier bad-weather access to a second parking spot on their property. Bob related that Georgette had done an enormous amount of research on this issue and was very protective of the character of the avenues. For the time being, the home-owners have withdrawn their paving request; Sixth Avenue will be put on the list to regrade and receive additional gravel. Rob Gilmore is the TC member responsible for walkway issues. Also, the Gateway Committee is interested in putting up informational signs about the historical significance of Grove Avenue, so this issue may be coming back to HPC.

Town Council Meeting Report

Rob Gilmore was not present to give an official report. Bob attended the March TC meeting and reported that the council was not going to act on RASEC's recommendation to rename McCathran Hall. The other RASEC recommendations will be taken up sometime in the future.

Planning Committee Coverage

Going forward, the following schedule was agreed upon:

April – Marilynn

May – Mimi

June – David
July – Bill
August – Wendy
September – Bob

RASEC Recommendations

The value of producing historical and cultural context documents for the Town was discussed, and we were reminded that Wendy had put together some Town-specific documents a few years ago (timeline, report on minstrelsy, “the fence”, etc.). At an appropriate time, Bob may ask the Town Council whether they would see value in HPC preparing such documents, as this would be a long-range, time-consuming project, not to be undertaken without TC support.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 9:45 pm. The next meeting will be on Tuesday, April 16, at 7:30pm via Zoom.