

**MINUTES of the September 17, 2024 MEETING of the Commission
(via Zoom)**

Adopted 10/13/24

Members Present: The meeting began at approximately 7:35 p.m. Bob Booher, Bill Earl, Wendy Harris, David Stopak, Mimi Styles, and Sam Suzich (alternate) were present. Barbara Raimondo (TC liaison) was unable to attend.

Approval of Agenda

Minor modifications to the proposed agenda were made and it was unanimously approved.

Adoption of Minutes

The minutes of the August meeting were reviewed and unanimously approved.

Review Session – 121 Maple Road

HPC received a building permit application for a screened porch addition at 121 Maple Road. Architect Richard Loosle, KUBE Architecture, was present. Mimi will write up the review.

Design Guideline Update

The sub-group was unable to meet as planned on August 28th and have rescheduled their meeting to Tuesday, September 24, at 7:30 in the Hall. Mimi will bring the design guideline materials that Wendy had passed along to her.

Correction to Architectural Survey

David Stopak reported that Christine Dibble has encountered a formatting compatibility issue between the old “House Histories” and the more recent Architectural Survey information. It will be necessary to reformat the House Histories before proceeding and that will take some time. Bill Earl is also looking into ways that Town residents could add information about their homes, with website moderator approval.

Bulletin Material

Mimi and Gail Littlefield met to identify some of Gail’s research into the history of Maryland/ Montgomery County camp meetings. This will form the basis of a short series for the Town Bulletin.

Bill Earl suggested that HPC’s past bulletin material be made available at a dedicated location on the Town’s website. It was agreed this would be a worthwhile project.

Planning Commission Meeting

The PC had reviewed the building permit application for the new home construction proposed for 328 Ridge Road at their regular August meeting but deferred their decision to a special meeting held August 22. The PC decided that the additional window details spread across the home’s four elevations addressed Condition #7 of the subdivision condition, and they accepted Mr. Golden’s

claim that he could not afford to add a porch to the rear of the house. The PC approved the application with a single condition—that a gable be added to the rear elevation of the house.

Considering that the Lottes adjacent, sub-dividable, one-acre property recently sold after having been advertised as including a “cottage in need of demolition”, HPC feels the PC’s lenient decision sets a bad precedent for future development in this neighborhood of Town. The adjacent five-acre Voigt property is another obvious candidate for subdivision.

There was no HPC representative at the September PC meeting. A schedule of PC meeting coverage going forward was agreed to, as follows:

October – Bill
November – David
December – Mimi
January – Sam
February - Bob

Town Council Meeting Report

Barbara was unable to attend; she submitted a short, written report before the meeting.

Grove Gatherings – Republication

Meredith Horan is spearheading a project to republish Rosalie Shantz’ Grove Gatherings. She is working on the project with Phil Edwards; plans include updates, better quality photos, etc. Phil Edwards has committed to writing its foreword. To be decided is whether the Woman’s Club or the Town will be its publisher. Bob said he has not yet discussed the project with Meredith.

Commemorative/Interpretive Signage

Wendy provided a photograph of an interpretive sign installed in Cragmoor, New York, that appears to be vinyl-covered metal. We would consider similar signs for some of our “lost buildings” (recall the posters produced for the Town’s 150th anniversary celebration). The project has HPC support, and it should be included in next fiscal year’s budget. Next steps will be to identify vendors and estimated costs.

Steatite Quarry

Wendy is working to schedule Dr. Caleb Fassett to return with some of his colleagues to render a second opinion about the alleged steatite quarry. Target time for their visit is late fall, once vegetation has died back to allow easier access to the area.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:20 pm. The next meeting will be on Tuesday, October 15, at 7:30pm via Zoom.