

**MINUTES of February 18, 2025 Meeting of the Commission  
(via Zoom)**

**Adopted March 18, 2025**

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

**Approval of Agenda**

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

**Adoption of Minutes**

Minor corrections were made to the draft minutes of the January meeting, and they were unanimously approved.

**Review Session**

There were no projects submitted for review.

**Commemorative Signage**

Sam presented her continuing work on graphics for the lost building commemorative signs, planned to be included in the next fiscal year's budget. The graphics were well received by the commissioners. Next steps will include identifying photographs of the lost buildings, and Sam is reaching out to Kathy or Pat to determine the quality of photos available in our archives. Bob may also contact Phil Winter about using (and crediting) photos from his collection. The National Register Nomination should provide sufficient information to develop a brief descriptive text for each site.

Bob reported that a resident contacted him about installation of a cast metal historic district roadside sign, probably along Railroad Street. This was considered in the past, but it was determined that the State of Maryland is no longer accepting applications from the public for new signs. While we do not have a state roadside sign, we do have a cast plaque mounted on a large rock in Morgan Park, and there are three "gateway signs" along Railroad Street and Washington Grove Lane that identify the Town as an historic district.

Also discussed was the possible interest among residents to obtain plaques that identify their homes as contributing resources to the historic district. HPC will research options for this type of plaque.

**Multi-Use Path**

Bob reported that the public hearing for the Multi-Use Path is scheduled for the evening of Thursday, March 6, in McCathran Hall, with the option for Zoom attendance as well. Information is posted on the homepage of the Town website. The mandatory referral review has not yet been scheduled.

### **Review Priorities for Archive Work**

Bob has spoken with Marilynn about setting up a meeting with Pat to review the status of Pat's PastPerfect work. About this time of year, Pat normally provides a summary report of her activities along with a look forward. Bob will follow up with Pat about her report.

### **Commercial Corner**

Bob has collaborated with Peter Nagrod and Robert Johnson on wording for the draft zoning text amendment which will allow mixed usage (commercial and residential). HPC will have the opportunity to give its comments as part of the process.

The draft would allow more uses at the Commercial Corner, and describes whether uses are "by right," or conditional. A third path, seeking a special exception from the BZA, is outlined as well. Barbara said she has had conversations with Peter about the question of whether approval by the Town Council relates to specific uses or to particular tenants. Her suggestion is that the ordinance be as specific as possible re allowed uses so the landlord and prospective tenants may have as much clarity as possible from the outset before entering serious discussions.

### **PC Meeting Attendance**

The following schedule was set for future PC Meeting coverage (first Wednesday of each month):

March 5 – Sam

April 2 – Mimi

May 7 – David

June 4 – Bill

July 2 – Bob

August 6 - Wendy

### **Bulletin Material**

Mimi reported that she has made attempts to contact the Peach Orchard Retreat Center (operating on the site of the former Spencerville Camp Meeting) to schedule a visit to the grounds and museum. Apparently the phone and email contacts on their website are obsolete – she has made a snail mail attempt and hopes to have a response soon.

### **Planning Commission Meeting**

There was no HPC coverage for the February PC meeting.

### **Town Council Meeting Report**

- Barbara reported that the second DEIB training had taken place, and the final training session is scheduled for March 2. Additional training, offered to a broader audience of residents, could be beneficial, and is under consideration.
- Bruce Daggy is working with the County regarding the Meadow Restoration efforts. There were some delays, but work should be completed before the birds start nesting.
- The mayor has written to Pepco confirming the Town's interest in purchasing the streetlights installed in Town.

- Shared multi-use path – Ahead of the March 6 meeting, the mayor submitted a letter to the County that incorporated the shared-use path committee’s comments, including those about the entrance to the path and trees.
- Discussion continues whether a paper copy of the Town Bulletin will be offered to residents.
- Resurfacing the basketball court has been postponed.
- Mary Warfield will provide the draft vacant properties ordinance to the Town attorney for comment. The draft will be reviewed again at the March TC meeting.
- The playground equipment committee continues its work.
- A few council members and residents recently had an introductory meeting with three Shady Grove Crossing residents. Topics included the meadow, shared use path, and recreational activities of possible interest to them. Barbara also reported that Shady Grove Crossing residents are firmly opposed to any extension of Amity Drive.

### **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:25 pm. The next meeting will be on Tuesday, February 18, at 7:30pm via Zoom.