

LAYTONSVILLE HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION
Meeting Minutes
Monday, April 15, 2019

Present:

Lisa Simonetti, Chair
Andy Drouliskos
Charles Hendricks
Jill Ruspi
Susan Phillips, Alternate

Absent:

Michele Shortley

Attendees:

Jennifer Sizemore, Secretary
Jim Ruspi, Mayor

Opening:

Chair Simonetti called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m. She noted that a quorum was present.

Minutes:

Member Hendricks made a motion to approve the March 2019 meeting minutes as amended, Alternate Phillips seconded, Member Ruspi recused, and all others approved.

Old Business:

Committee Members: Chair Simonetti said she asked Alternate Phillips to be a member of the Historic District Commission (HDC) rather than an alternate and she agreed. Member Shortley will then become the alternate. Mayor Ruspi said he would announce the change at the May Town Council meeting.

Guideline Revision: Chair Simonetti mentioned the George Washington University historic district design guidelines Member Hendricks had shared, which was 50 pages long. Member Ruspi had also shared a document from Takoma Park which has work-permit evaluation guidelines and extensive lists of the town's houses, styles, and ages. Member Hendricks said the GW-area document has a map of landmarks, a diagram of the district, pictures of choice historic buildings, and descriptions and pictures of different architectural specialties or features that are worthy of preserving. It discusses important things like fences, porches, stairs, etc. and highlights the beauty of a neighborhood that isn't completely historic. Chair Simonetti thought the town had done a good job of maintaining the historic character while also modernizing. Member Ruspi suggested the Takoma Park document could be used as a guide along with research University of Maryland graduate students undertook on Laytonsville's historic houses. She said Ann Wolf could also provide historic perspective on the houses.

The HDC members discussed hiring an outside expert to update Laytonsville's guidelines. Secretary Sizemore had shared a database of historical architects and agreed to identify five or

six that would likely meet the HDC's needs. The HDC would then select a few to submit proposals for the work and share with the Town Council for approval of funds. Member Ruspi specified that it would be helpful having someone with experience dealing with a small town rather than larger districts like Annapolis.

New Business:

21412 Laytonsville Rd. (Michael and Elizabeth Besteder): The homeowners sent an email stating that they were in the early stages of planning an exterior renovation, i.e., roof, gutters, and siding. They will come to the HDC for approval before starting work, but they need to know what's under the asbestos shingles to develop the renovation plan. They asked whether they need approval to remove the shingles. Member Drouliskos said the homeowners could probably remove a few shingles themselves, but would likely need a certified company to remove all the shingles due to the asbestos. Chair Simonetti suggested that HDC approval isn't needed to remove a few shingles. She said the homeowners intend to restore the outside to the original wood if it's salvageable. The HDC members further discussed the process for removing asbestos shingles and alternatives for replacement. Member Drouliskos volunteered to talk with the homeowners to get a better idea of their intention and make sure they understand a special contractor will be needed for the asbestos, but all members agreed that the homeowners can remove the few tiles they need for an assessment.

Member Ruspi moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:53 p.m., Member Hendricks seconded, all approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer Sizemore