

LAYTONSVILLE HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION
Meeting Minutes
Monday, August 20, 2018

Present:

Lisa Simonetti, Chair
Jill Ruspi
Michele Shortley

Absent:

Charles Hendricks
Andy Drouliskos
Susan Phillips, Alternate

Attendees:

Jennifer Sizemore, Secretary
Jim Ruspi, Mayor

Opening:

Chair Simonetti called the meeting to order at 7:17 p.m. She noted that a quorum was present. Mayor Ruspi swore in Member Shortley.

Minutes:

Member Ruspi made a motion to approve the July meeting minutes, Member Shortley seconded, all approved.

New Business:

Member Ruspi mentioned that some newer residents are unaware of the boundaries related to the historic district. She suggested creating a flyer that could be included in the packet for new residents that would explain why the historic district was created, including a map, as well as the process for making exterior changes to the home (i.e., homeowner's association, then Historic District Commission [HDC]). Member Shortley suggested a single-page flyer with the map on one side and the relevant information on the other. She noted that the HDC still needs to finish updating the guidelines, and Chair Simonetti said Matt Benning is working on them. Member Ruspi volunteered to put the flyer together and asked the secretary to assist with editing. Chair Simonetti agreed that it was a good idea. Mayor Ruspi suggested someone call Matt Benning about the revised guidelines, and Member Ruspi said there were notes put together a while ago that should be given to Matt if they haven't already. The Secretary has a list of websites for other towns of similar size, which she will resend to the HDC members to use as reference for the guidelines.

Mayor Ruspi noted that the Lion's Club received a \$95,000 endowment to put up a community center in the town.

Old Business

Mayor Ruspi said he is working to connect Dustin Green with an organization that helps kids who have had trouble with the law so they can help Mr. Green with his renovations. He is also working with Mike Seebold to help other residents get grants to do outside renovations. Member Shortley asked whether there is a point where the town should step in to preserve the historic district, and Mayor Ruspi said there wasn't much that could be done if the homeowner isn't willing. The town can't apply for grants on the homeowner's behalf, and many of them require the homeowner to pay the cost upfront then get reimbursed. Mayor Ruspi mentioned a friend whose town had success in getting homeowners to make upgrades after sending cease and desist letters.

Member Ruspi moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:48 p.m. Member Shortley seconded, and the motion was unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer Sizemore