

LAYTONSVILLE HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION
Meeting Minutes
Monday, June 17, 2019

Present:

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

Absent:

Michele Shortley, Alternate

Attendees:

Jennifer Sizemore, Secretary
Jim Ruspi, Mayor
Samantha and Steve Marstaller
Sheree Wenger

Opening:

Chair Simonetti called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. She noted that a quorum was present.

Minutes:

The Historic District Commission (HDC) members discussed the order of approvals related to the Marstaller application. After the commission agreed on the process and adjusted the May 2019 minutes accordingly, Member Hendricks made a motion to approve the May 2019 meeting minutes as amended, Member Ruspi seconded, all approved.

Public Hearing:

HDWP 01-19, 21517 Laytonsville Rd. (Samantha and Steve Marstaller): The application includes removing three red buildings in the back yard and moving the driveway 9' away from the oak tree. Member Hendricks shared photos he had taken and asked about the construction materials of the buildings. Mr. Marstaller clarified it was a combination of wood and metal. Member Hendricks observed that the buildings are visible from the street, but Mr. Marstaller said they are difficult to see, and that would be the case even if the camper in the adjacent driveway were moved. Member Drouliskos asked if the buildings have power, and Mr. Marstaller said they used to, but the wires were disconnected due to a short. Chair Simonetti clarified that the buildings were built in the 1970s, so they are not historic. Member Ruspi suggested that, given their age and condition and lack of historical significance, it wouldn't be worth the cost to renovate. Sheree Wenger of 6715 Maple Knoll Drive said that she saw no problem with the removal of the outbuildings. Mr. Marstaller said they are not using the buildings, though they may want to build something in the future. Member Hendricks cautioned that simply allowing something to deteriorate shouldn't be cause for removal, and the historic character should be considered regardless of when it was added. The HDC members further discussed the issue. Member Ruspi made a motion to approve the removal of the buildings and member Drouliskos

seconded. The motion was approved without dissent with Member Hendricks abstaining and Member Phillips recused.

The HDC members discussed the driveway issue and decided to continue the hearing on that portion of the application until the July meeting, giving the Marstallers a chance to talk to contractors about the work and to submit more specific plans.

New Business:

Sheree Wenger, a former HDC chair, shared with the commission that the daughter of former resident and HDC member Joanne Howes was featured on the cover of *Lawn and Landscape* magazine. She is a branch manager for Ruppert Landscape in North Carolina.

HDC Chair Position. Chair Simonetti has decided that, due to a large number of commitments in her personal life, she will be stepping down as chair of the HDC. She has served as chair for almost 2 years. She also said that she planned to resign from the commission. The HDC members and Mayor Ruspi discussed different options for replacing her as chair. Member Hendricks said he would be interested in the position. Mayor Ruspi said that he would have the commission select a new chair itself and asked the members to call or email him with their thoughts about a new member to replace Member Simonetti and possibly a new alternate to replace Alternate Shortley, who has not been able to attend recent meetings.

Old Business:

Guidelines Revision: Member Phillips talked to Tyler Smith, and he is willing to schedule a meeting with the HDC to discuss the guideline revision. She will follow up.

Member Ruspi moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:20 p.m., Member Hendricks seconded, all approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer Sizemore