Laytonsville Historic District Commission Meeting Minutes, November 15, 2021

**LAYTONSVILLE HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION**

**Videoconference Meeting Minutes**

**Monday November 15, 2021**

**Present:**

Charles Hendricks, Chair

Michael McDonald

Jill Ruspi

Jennifer Sizemore

**Absent:**

Andy Drouliskos

Michele Shortley, Alternate

**Attendees:**

Mary Burke, Secretary

**Opening:** Chair Hendricks called the meeting to order at 7:37. He noted that a quorum was present.

**New Business:**

Approval of minutes from October meeting: Member McDonald made a motion to approve the minutes as edited. Member Ruspi seconded and all approved.

Report on the action taken by the Town Council at its meeting on November 2, 2021, to enhance the appearance of the gateway fence area at the entrance of the Rolling Ridge development:

* + Chair Hendricks and Members Ruspi and Drouliskos were present at the Town Council Meeting.
	+ Chair Hendricks reported that, after Eric Wenger informed the Town Council that the Knock Out Roses that the HDC recommended planting were $40 each, the Council approved $1,500 to remove the junipers and plant the roses.
	+ Member Ruspi shared that the landscaper subsequently said that there was not enough room for Knock Out Roses, so red Petit Roses would be planted instead. Goshen Enterprises will do the work.

**Old Business:**

Discussion of the design guidelines adopted for the use of the Historic District Commission, particularly the requirement that fences be painted or covered with a solid stain, to determine whether to recommend to the Town Council any modifications of those guidelines:

* + Member Ruspi stated that when the guidelines were approved, it was apparent that they would need to be looked at in the future, because they were done quickly.
	+ Chair Hendricks was on the HDC when the guidelines were worked on.
	+ Chair Hendricks asked if the HDC finds things that need to be fixed, should each one be worked on separately or as a comprehensive document.
	+ Member McDonald said it would be most efficient if it was one document and Member Ruspi agreed.
	+ Chair Hendricks noted that the HDC has discussed these guidelines before and has not made any recommendations. One particular guideline is not being followed by the town regarding the painting or staining of the fence. How can we handle this? Do we need to study all of the guidelines to rectify this?
	+ Member Sizemore volunteered to take the written document from Member Ruspi and read through it. It would be best to assign sections to members.
	+ Chair Hendricks mentioned that the HDC should not do anything definitive without Member Drouliskos’ expertise.
	+ There was a brief discussion of the last two fences installed (that have not been painted or stained), and whether they represent historical accuracy. It was noted that applying a sealant would not change the appearance of the fence.
	+ Member McDonald suggested that the HDC take two months to review the guidelines, and pull out things to discuss at the January meeting.
	+ Members Ruspi and Sizemore offered to meet and suggest items for the HDC to focus on.
	+ It was noted that the guidelines are 17 years old.

**Open Forum**:

* + There is an application before the Board of Appeals for 7408 White House Lane. This home backs up to properties in the commercial-historic zone and the homeowner would like to install an 8’ fence to screen the home. Zoning permits 6’. The hearing will take place December 6, 2021 at 7:30.
	+ Dustin Green’s house on Sundown Road is for rent.
	+ It was noted that the flags on the posts were tattered. The town pays someone to put them up and take them down, and when they put them up, they use new flags every year.

**Miscellaneous:** Chair Hendricks asked if the HDC should hold a meeting in December. The commission decided that the next HDC Meeting, tentatively scheduled for December 20, 2021, would be held only if an application for a historic district work permit is filed in time for a public hearing on that date.

Member Ruspi moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:35. Member Sizemore seconded, and all approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Burke