Laytonsville Historic District Commission Meeting Minutes, October 18, 2021

**LAYTONSVILLE HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION**

**Videoconference Meeting Minutes**

**Monday October 18, 2021**

**Present:**

Charles Hendricks, Chair

Andy Drouliskos

Michael McDonald

Jill Ruspi

Jennifer Sizemore

**Absent:**

Michele Shortley, Alternate

**Attendees:**

Mary Burke, Secretary

Jim Ruspi, Mayor

Mike and Caroline Maurer

**Opening:** Chair Hendricks called the meeting to order at 7:36. He noted that a quorum was present.

**New Business:**

Approval of minutes from September meeting: Member Sizemore made a motion to approve the minutes as edited. Member Drouliskos seconded and all approved.

Public Hearing on Historic District Work Permit Application 03-21 for the installation of a new fence at 7111 Brink Road:

* + The hearing was opened at 7:38.
	+ Member Ruspi recused herself from the discussion and the vote.
	+ The application is to replace the existing privacy fence with a wood fence that will be 3 feet tall from the street to the back of the house (52 feet) and 4 feet tall from the back of the house to the back of the lot. The fence will be a total length of 192 feet and will contain no gates.
	+ The Ruspis have discussed the fence with their neighbors the Maurers over the course of the last month and a half.
	+ It will be a gothic-style picket fence that will match the neighboring fence. It will be pressure treated pine.
	+ The contractor will remove the old fence and install the new one.
	+ There was conversation regarding the differences between a colonial-style picket and a gothic-style picket.
	+ Member Sizemore stated the fence is evaluated under the town guidelines for material and height and that we should approve both styles as they are very similar.
	+ Chair Hendricks asked if the pressure-treated pine would be stained. Jim Ruspi said no, that the wood could not be stained for six months after installation and that at this time there is no plan to stain the fence.
	+ Chair Hendricks stated that the guidelines call for the fence to be painted or stained, but it is hard to enforce due to the six-month curing time.
	+ Member Drouliskos suggested a sealant once the wood has cured.
	+ Member Sizemore suggested that the guidelines be amended.
	+ Chair Hendricks suggested asking for a good faith commitment that once the wood has cured that it be stained or sealed.
	+ The hearing was closed at 8:12.

Commission action on Work Permit Application 03-21:

* + Member Sizemore made a motion to approve the application as submitted for either a gothic or colonial-style picket fence and to review the guideline that a wooden fence be painted or stained. Chair Hendricks seconded the motion and all participating members approved.
	+ The discussion regarding the guideline will occur at the next HDC Meeting. Recent fence permits will be reviewed to see where they stand. The HDC may make a recommendation that will be passed to the Town Council.

Discussion of the proposals being considered by the Town Council to enhance the appearance of the gateway fence area at the entrance to the Rolling Ridge development:

* + Chair Hendricks reported that the mayor had forwarded to the Town Council two proposals from Goshen Enterprises. One is to remove the Junipers and replace them with 2 Dwarf Crepe Myrtles and 6 Spirea bushes. The other is to remove the Junipers and replace them with grass.
	+ The Town of Laytonsville took on the responsibility of maintenance several years ago. Chair Hendricks feels the town is responsible for the maintenance due to the historic nature of the Rolling Ridge House.
	+ Because this is in the Historic District, the HDC should weigh in on what should be done.
	+ Member Drouliskos stated that the fence would need to be painted.
	+ Member Ruspi suggested planting Knock Out Roses and mulching. She is not in favor of planting Spirea.
	+ Member Drouliskos endorsed the planting of Knock Out Roses. He reported that the Rolling Ridge HOA will take care of painting the fence.
	+ Mayor Ruspi stated that he would be happy to present the idea of Knock Out Roses to the Town Council.
	+ Chair Hendricks made a motion that the Historic District Commission recommend to the Town Council that the town remove the Junipers (and stumps), arrange with the Rolling Ridge HOA to have the fence painted, and have the town plant low-growing, flowering perennials (like Knock Out Roses) in front of the fence. Member Drouliskos seconded and all approved.

**Old Business:**

Open Forum:

* + The contact information for the owner of the Rolling Ridge House has been difficult to locate. Member Drouliskos has the phone number for the current tenant. He will call and see if he can get the owner’s number. He will update the HDC once he has had the chance to talk with the tenant.

**Miscellaneous:** Chair Hendricks stated that the next HDC Meeting will be held November 15, 2021.

Member Ruspi moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:03. Member Sizemore seconded, and all approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Burke