Laytonsville Historic District Monthly Meeting, May 15, 2023

**LAYTONSVILLE HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION**

**Videoconference Meeting Minutes**

**Monday, May 15, 2023**

**Present:**

Charles Hendricks, Chair

Michael McDonald

Jennifer Sizemore

**Absent:**

Kris Bradsher

Andy Drouliskos

**Attendees:**

James Schneider, Secretary

Bill Fitts

Jeff Bergsten

**Opening:**

Chair Hendricks called the meeting to order at 7:38. He noted that a quorum was present.

The first order of business was to approve the minutes from the April 17, 2023, HDC meeting. Chair Hendricks asked if any members had any comments or edits of the minutes. Member Sizemore made a motion to approve the minutes, which was seconded by Member McDonald. All members in attendance were in favor; minutes were approved.

Inquiry from the Vestry of St. Bartholomew’s Episcopal Church about moving a

bush from the northwest corner of Parcel P662 at 6920 Sundown Road

(Temperance Hall) to a location on the parcel behind that building:

Chair Hendricks introduced Mr. Fitts from St. Bartholomew’s Episcopal Church and displayed photos of the building owned by the church at 6920 Sundown Road (Temperance Hall).

* Mr. Fitts- The bush in question obstructs the view from two driveways onto Sundown Road and would limit the visibility of a potential sign for activities in the building approved by the Board of Appeals. Hopefully, we’ll be able to take up the whole bush with the root ball and relocate it to the back of the property to hide the air conditioning unit.
* Chair Hendricks asked HDC members if a Historic District Work Permit (HDWP) is required for this. He shared his screen to view and read Section 127.05 of the town’s Zoning Ordinance, Historic Area Work Permit; When Required.
* Member McDonald said his reaction is that in this situation a HDWP is not required.
* Member Sizemore agreed, stating that the environmental setting does not impact this historic structure and does not need an application for a work permit.
* Chair Hendricks shared his screen with further Zoning Ordinance language, and it appeared that there is no need for an application for a work permit for this project.

Open forum on Laytonsville historic preservation issues:

* Chair Hendricks stated that the Layton House (7000 Brink Road) appears to be under contract. Member McDonald responded that yes, we do have a buyer.
* Chair Hendricks stated that the new home on Rolling Ridge Lane hosted an open house and is priced at over $1 million, so home prices seem to be doing well in Laytonsville.

Proposed Consolidated Guidelines

* Member Sizemore brought up the Landscaping Guidelines section from the proposed Consolidated Guidelines that the HDC recommended to the Town Council at a previous meeting. She suggested that if the Landscaping Guidelines were removed, the Consolidated Guidelines might get approved by the Town Council. She further explained that the language of the Landscaping Guidelines section is vague and does not seem to provide a lot of guidance. She shared her screen with the printed draft version of the Landscaping section from the proposed Consolidated Guidelines.
* Member McDonald agreed that the Landscaping Guidelines section does not appear to be too prescriptive.
* Member Sizemore added that the Landscaping Guidelines section doesn’t appear to have the level of specificity that the Tree Ordinance does.
* Chair Hendricks said that he is in favor of removing the Landscaping Guidelines section in an effort to facilitate Town Council approval of the proposed Consolidated Guidelines.
* Member McDonald moved to remove the Landscaping Guidelines section from the proposed Consolidated Guidelines. Member Sizemore seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Member Sizemore moved to adjourn. Member McDonald seconded, and all approved at 8:24pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

James Schneider, Secretary