Laytonsville Historic District Commission Monthly Meeting, January 15, 2024

**LAYTONSVILLE HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION**

**Videoconference Meeting Minutes**

**Monday, January 15, 2024**

**Present:**

Jen Sizemore, Chair

Kris Bradsher

Andy Drouliskos

Patrick Murray

**Absent:**

Rebecca Saah

**Attendees:**

James Schneider, Secretary

Mary Burke, Town Clerk

Tom Burke

Charles Hendricks, Mayor

Dan and Anne Wolf

Jim and Jill Ruspi

Dick Evans

**Opening:**

Chair Sizemore called the meeting to order at 7:40. The meeting was held by Zoom video conferencing. Chair Sizemore noted that a quorum was present and that the meeting was being recorded.

The first order of business was to approve the minutes from the December 18, 2023, meeting. Member Drouliskos made a motion to approve the minutes as submitted. Member Bradsher seconded. The minutes were approved unanimously.

**Public Hearing on Historic District Work Permit Application 09-23 submitted by Dan Wolf for Parcel 600 on Brink Road and Laytonsville Road for repair work to the barn adjacent to the house at 7101 Brink Road as well as fence repair:**

Member Murray motioned to open the public hearing. Member Bradsher seconded. Unanimously approved. The public hearing was opened at 7:43 p.m.

Chair Sizemore briefly reviewed the proposed work to be completed. For the first part, Red Metal Roof Replacement, discussion ensued as to color and material. It was noted that there is no firm understanding or record on the barn’s roofing history in terms of when it was done or the original color.

For the second part, Doors and Windows Replacement Plan, Mr. Wolf asked to give a presentation of additional changes he wished to make that were not described in the HDWP application. Discussion ensued. Chair Sizemore suggested that the HDC extend consideration of the remainder of the application related to work on the barn for one month to allow Mr. Wolf to revise the application with the new information.

Mayor Hendricks gave testimony about the work proposed in the application and provided some historical context related to the barn.

The commission then discussed the Fence Painting Plan to repaint the existing fence white and replace a section of the fence with a metal gate that would not be visible from Brink Road.

**Public Hearing on Historic District Work Permit Application 01-24 submitted by Dan Wolf for Parcel 600 on Brink Road and Laytonsville Road for tree removal:**

Chair Sizemore shared photos of the trees proposed for removal and drawings of their location on the property.

Mayor Hendricks gave a statement/testimony explaining his understanding of the trees in question.

Jill Ruspi of 7111 Brink Road shared her thoughts on the trees to be removed, specifically that only landmark trees need to be brought to the attention of the HDC.

Tom Burke of [21710 Laytonsville Road](https://www.fastpeoplesearch.com/address/21710-laytonsville-rd_gaithersburg-md-20882) asked whether HDC approval for tree removal is still needed while the HDC decides whether to update the zoning ordinance, and Chair Sizemore confirmed that it is.

Mr. Dick Evans of 6001 Griffith Road, co-chair of St. Paul’s United Methodist Church, provided information about damage to St. Paul’s Church in July 2024 resulting from downed trees in the same area as Mr. Wolf’s trees.

Member Murray asked for and received clarification that the property’s current fencing and gating do not need to be altered at this time to get to the trees proposed for removal.

Member Murray made a motion to close the public hearing. Member Drouliskos seconded. Unanimously approved. The public hearing was closed at 9:00 p.m.

Chair Sizemore stated that for HDWP 09-23, additional information is needed from Mr. Wolf, and we cannot make a decision on the entire barn project at this time.

Member Murray stated that he would like to see an updated architectural plan for the barn’s siding, windows and doors in terms of colors and materials, however in terms of the roof, we could make a decision knowing what the material and color will be. In regards to the fencing and gate replacement, if there is a replacement of the same materials, then he could vote on that as well.

Member Murray made a motion to approve portions of HDWP 09-23 for the brick red roofing material for the barn and the fence paining and metal gate installation as submitted while holding consideration of the rest of the application until Mr. Wolf can submit additional information. Member Drouliskos seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Member Bradsher made a motion to approve HDWP 01-24 as submitted. Member Drouliskos seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

**Discussion of our Future Meeting Schedule and Goals for 2024**

Chair Sizemore reviewed some issues that have come up over the past several months that the HDC needs to address and proposed using regularly scheduled HDC meetings for decision making and adding some additional in person work sessions for discussing and understanding issues. Member Bradsher liked the idea of additional in person work sessions and suggested an in-service from the Montgomery County department of code enforcement. Member Murray clarified work sessions would still be open to the public. Chair Sizemore stated that the work sessions would be scheduled and posted in the same manner as the regular monthly meetings where the public is invited to attend, but not necessarily participate in the discussions the way they are encouraged to do during a public hearing. Mayor Hendricks clarified that no actions, such as making or voting on a motion for Town Council consideration, could be taken at a work session.

**Open forum on Laytonsville historic preservation issues:**

None at this time.

The next HDC meeting will be on Monday, February 19, 2024. This meeting will include a public hearing.

Member Murray moved to adjourn the meeting. Member Bradsher seconded the motion. Unanimously approved. The meeting was adjourned at 9:20 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

James Schneider, Secretary