



MINUTES

Thursday, February 19, 2015
7:30 pm @ Hightstown-East Windsor
Historical Society



Hightstown
Historic Preservation
Commission

Call to order:

2014 Chairman Pratt called the meeting to order at 7:35pm.

Open Public Meeting Act Statement: Rick Pratt read the Open Public Meetings Act Statement.

Roll Call:

Commissioner Cardoso (PC):	Present	Commissioner Egan (DE):	Present
Commissioner Carney (WC):	Present	Commissioner: (Vacant)	--
Commissioner Pratt (RP):	Present	Commissioner, Alt. #1: (Vacant)	--
Commissioner Teller (RT):	Present	Commissioner, Alt. #2: (Vacant)	--
Commissioner von Riegen (RvR):	Present		

Council Liaison C. Montferrat (CM): Present

Planning Bd. Liaison F. Montferrat (FM): *Absent*

Officers:

Chairman: Commissioners nominated Rick Pratt to continue as chair. There were no other nominations. RP accepted. The vote in favor was unanimous.

Vice-Chairman: RP nominated Will Carney as Vice-Chair. There were no other nominations. Will accepted. The vote in favor was unanimous.

Secretary: There were no nominations. RP volunteered. There were no other volunteers. The vote in favor was unanimous.

Meeting Dates:

The list of meeting dates was distributed prior to the meeting by RP. No one had any objections. RP will forward the list to the clerk.

Minutes: November 2014 minutes were approved. There was no January meeting.

Public Comment: None.

Guests: Mayor Larry Quattrone sat in on the 126 Stockton Street Opinion application. He left after the applicant presented.

Opinion Requests:

126 Stockton Street – Jose Hidalgo. Mr. Hidalgo removed a large front box window and replace with two windows flush to the main wall, without a building permit or application to the HHPC. The Borough issued a summons with a requirement to attend the HHPC meeting. The Commissioners heard his presentation and discussed what should be done. A letter was issued to the building department and the final determination was tabled until next meeting.

415 Mercer Street - Variance Request forwarded by the Planning Board. Custom Bandag has sublet their rear parking lot to a trucking company where trailers are being stored. The Commission took no

issue as long as the trailers did not migrate further to the front of the property. *Post meeting: RP sent an email to this effect to the PB Secty.*

Juan Ordonez – RP suggested that the commissioners visit the house on Stockton Street to review what has been done and possibly reassess the Opinion requirements.

Old Business:

Certified Local Government: Andrea Tingey of the State Historic Preservation Office sent comments to RP regarding ordinance edits, minutes format, background requirements of the commissioners, yearly education requirements for the commissioners and other requirements for approval of the CLG status. RP discussed each point and the probably solutions. RP and CM will work on a response document for the commissioners to review at the next meeting.

Steward of Hightstown History: CM will reach out to the Trenton Times about promoting the Steward of Hightstown History award process and kick it off for 2015.

Historic District Descriptive Sign: RP received a quote and mockup from Franklin Bronze, the manufacturer of all the circa signs, for a 24" x 24" sign. The amount is \$1,166.40. WC had some comments on the language and will bring edits to the next meeting. CM would like to see a curved top to incorporate the borough seal. RT would like to get an estimate from a supplier he knows. The commission asked that RP forward the mockup to all. *Post Meeting: Mockup emailed 2/20/15.*

Preserve America Community: RP called the Preserve America facilitator to inquire to the status of the application. A letter has been mailed with additional information that is needed. *Post Meeting: no letter received as of 2/20/15.*

Walking Tour Brochure / Phone App: RP developed a mockup Phone App, but the computer was not working for the commission to review. The thought was to have Gary Stevens build the App after the commission has vetted the layout and functions. RP to forward HTML of mockup to all commissioners.

New Business:

Classic Towns Program (DVRPC): The Planning Board is seeking a grant from the Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission, (DVRPC) for our downtown. The grant is offered every other year of which this year is the skip. In the meantime if we become a Classic Town as granted by the DVRPC, we have a better chance of the larger grant. RP has been designated by the Mayor as the contact person and the DVRPC has approved the town as a candidate. There will be a presentation to the Borough Council by the DVRPC on March 2nd. The HPC and all borough commissions will have a role in developing the language that will be on the www.classictowns.org and website and the promotions that the DVRPC does on our behalf.

District Resident Info Brochure: The commission would like to develop a brochure to distribute to residents and real estate agents about the requirements of living in the Stockton Street Historic District. RP noted that a Newsletter was created in July 2010, and that there may be some information in there to include. Every resident of the district received a copy of the newsletter at that time, and they were available at Borough Hall and the Molto Bene Café. It is available here:

<http://www.hightstownborough.com/newsletters/hpc/2010/HHPC-Newsletter-1-FINAL.pdf>

Adjournment:

The motion to adjourn was made by WC and seconded by RvR. All were in favor and the meeting was adjourned at 9:20 pm.

Next Meeting: March 19, 2015 – 7:30pm, HEWHS