



MINUTES

Thursday, May 21, 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):	<i>Absent</i>
Commissioner Carney (WC):	Present	Commissioner: Honsel (JH)	Present
Commissioner Pratt (RP):	Present	Commissioner, Alt. #1: (Vacant)	--
Commissioner Teller (RT):	Present	Commissioner, Alt. #2: (Vacant)	--
Commissioner von Riegen (RvR):	Absent		

Council Liaison C. Montferrat (CM): Present Planning Bd. Liaison F. Montferrat (FM): *Absent*

Minutes: March, 19 2015 minutes were moved by PC & 2nd by JH. All members voted in approval.

Public Comment: None.

Guests: None.

Opinion Requests:

167-169 Stockton Street – Joe Mannino purchased the brick duplex on Stockton Street and proceeded to “upgrade” the exterior without realizing he has to meet with the HPC first. Most notably he removed the basement windows and blocked them up, “you’ll never know there were windows there.” RP and Mr. Mannino discussed two possibilities prior to the meeting. One to remove the concrete block, install narrower block to create a recess and install flat bluestone. This is to look like there had been a window and that it could be removed another time and the opening and window restored. The other option was to install narrower block and a fake window to match what was there. The HPC voted for two fake windows in front and two bluestone windows on the right side. A more detailed description is part of Opinion 2015-1.

Old Business:

421 North Main Street: House is on the market again.

503 North Main Street: Connor Montferrat is working on the National Register nomination and submitted his progress to the commission. RP found out that the owner wants to sell the home, but will not be officially putting it on the market yet. Ideally the nomination should be obtained before the owner changes.

Certified Local Government: RP received detailed comments back from the SHPO regarding the ordinance. RP made most of the changes and went through them at the meeting. Post Meeting: RP sent a pdf of all changes to HPC Commissioners for comment and vote at the next meeting.

Steward of Hightstown History: The Commissioners nominated three people for the award. Dave Zaiser on South Main St., Chris Moraitis on Stockton Street and Keith White on East Ward Street. Mr. Moraitis

received 1 vote, Mr. Zaiser 2, and Mr. White 3. The award will be presented to Mr. White at a council meeting with a resolution. Post Meeting: RP sent a request to Franklin Bronze to make a 2015 plaque.

Historic District Descriptive Sign: RP sent the language to WC for his review as per his request. WC made suggested edits but felt more editing was necessary. He thought, and the HPC agreed that the sign shouldn't describe what we've done, but be more of a history lesson. JH will review from this point and report back at the next meeting. Related to this the suggested location on back of the Hightstown sign in the Prayer Garden on Stockton Street, was met with surprise from the Church trustees, (As it was mentioned in the HEWHS Spring 2015 newsletter. They asked for a formal request and list of maintenance requirements and who will maintain the area. RP sent an email to the church trustees, c/o Ed Kelley noting that it will not be touching the ground and no additional maintenance would be required. Post Meeting: RP received an email from Ed Kelley 5/22/15 approving the sign with stipulations. The email was sent to the clerk for the file. Post Meeting: RP noted that at the March meeting, the commissioners asked that the sign include the borough seal at the top.

Preserve America Community: WC sent the response letter to Preserve America.

Walking Tour Brochure / Phone App: Topic was not discussed.

Classic Towns Program (DVRPC): RP met with the Mayor to go over his comments, and the comments of those commissions that sent emails. RP to edit based on all comments and have the mayor make a final review before returning to the DVRPC. No additional funds have been solicited or obtained as RP hasn't had the time to pursue.

District Resident Info Brochure: The Spring newsletter included 4 pages of HPC topics included a "What's the Difference" puzzle, and was well received. The final bill was \$213 and the HPC approved this amount be sent to the Historical Society to reimburse them. RP has been working with the Hightstown-East Windsor Historical Society (HEWHS) to rework their newsletter. Bob Craig of the Society would like the HEWHS and the HPC to share info back and forth. RP suggested to the HPC that one issue a year of the newsletter could include an additional 4 pages about the HPC. The cost to the HPC would be approximately \$200.

Historic Element: Per RP's request, WC approached Dan Buriak about writing the Historic Element as he had expressed interest back in about 2011. Mr. Buriak told WC that he would consider it. WC will follow up. Mr. Buriak has said that he doesn't have the time. HPC to discuss at a later meeting.

Website: The Borough website hosting company has the ability for a sub-account. It would be \$15/month. RP to check in with Gary Stevens to see if he would donate the web design. The HPC decided not to pursue the sub-domain. The Historical Society newsletter fills this void.

Budget: \$1,900 is slated to be part of the budget when it is approved.

New Business:

Fine Homebuilding Porch Gallery: RP developed a partnership with *Fine homebuilding* magazine as part of the Historical Society newsletter to reprint a how-to article in each issue. In the course of the partnership discussion, *Fine Homebuilding* asked that Hightstown and East Windsor residents send in pictures of their porches to be part of an issue of the magazine. Pictures are to be sent to mfriedman@taunton.com by July 31, 2015.

Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 pm.

Next Meeting: June 18, 2015 – 7:30pm, HEWHS