

Hightstown Historic Preservation Commission

Thursday, April 17, 2008

7:30 pm @Borough Hall

MINUTES

- Call to order and Roll Call: The meeting was called to order by Chairwoman Christian Kirkpatrick at 7:35 pm. The Open Public Meeting Act statement was read and roll was taken. In attendance were: Commissioners Kirkpatrick, Brown, Buriak, Keith, L'vov, Mariboe, Patten, and Pratt.
- Mayor Bob Patten administered the Oath of Office to Commissioner Dan Buriak and Commissioner Rick Pratt.
- There were no members of the public in attendance so no public comment was heard.
- The minutes were approved as amended.
- Old Business:
 1. Stockton Street Streetscape Improvements:

Commissioner Buriak reported that we are focusing on the Civil War Monument only at this point. The deadline for this process is June 26.
 2. Antiques Fair: Commissioner Brown reported that she will be meeting with Chief Eufemia to gain approval for closing the parking lot. It was suggested that the committee contact local antique dealers. The following people were suggested: Phyllis Deal, Dan Yurwit and Merle Ivins.
 3. The Symposium was discussed. Photos should be sent to Commissioner L'vov by April 27 and a run-through is planned for May 2.
 4. The Porch Tour will be held May 26th, from 11:00 to 2:00. Commissioner Buriak offered his book to be copied for information on each classification of homes. Carriage Rides

were discussed for the Porch Tour. Commissioner Buriak will gather more information on this.

5. The Stockton Street Advisory Board was discussed again as a sub-group of the Historic Preservation Commission. The group discussed its role as a liaison to the residents of Stockton Street and decided to call it the Stockton Street Liaison Group. There was consensus to move ahead with it and Dan Buriak agreed to be the liaison between both groups. It was suggested that they meet several times a year.
6. The proposed ordinances for establishing the Historic District and revising the current ordinance for the Historic Preservation Commission was discussed. Commissioner Kirkpatrick proposed developing a new survey to determine more precisely the residents of Stockton Street's wishes regarding regulation of their property. Commissioner Buriak pointed out that it would be in the best interests of the historic district to designate it locally in order to protect it. Commissioner Patten stated that the proposed ordinance was too stringent and didn't reflect the wishes of the residents as indicated on the survey. It was suggested to take out the requirement for the Certificate of Appropriateness but to include language allowing for a delaying of demolition. Commissioner Buriak agreed to revise the ordinance for the next meeting.

- New Business:

1. Ryan Rosenberg and the Economic Development Committee are working on a website for Downtown Hightstown and HPC links will be included. Ryan has requested a history of Hightstown and a history of the Historic District. Commissioner Buriak suggested using Estrella Waite's History of Hightstown written in 1921 for Hightstown's Bicentennial Program and the portion of the National Historic Preservation Historic Site application that summarizes its history.
2. A letter written to Peddie School to explain the HPC's rationale against the demolition of the Queen Anne structure on South Main and Ward Street was read as revised by the addition of architectural details. There was consensus to send it to Peddie to make them aware of our concerns.

- The meeting was adjourned at 9:45 pm.