



Hightstown Historic Preservation Commission

Thursday, December 16, 2010
7:30 pm @ Borough Hall



MINUTES

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

Open Public Meeting Act Statement: Chairman Pratt read the Open Public Meeting Act Statement.

Roll Call:

Commissioner Brown:	Present
Commissioner Buriak:	Present
Commissioner Cox:	Present
Commissioner Ely:	Present
Commissioner Keith:	Present
Commissioner Mariboe:	Present
Commissioner Patten:	Present
Commissioner Pratt:	Present
Commissioner Smith:	Present
Council Liaison Musing:	Present

Minutes: The minutes from the previous meeting were moved by Commissioner Cox and seconded by Commissioner Ely as amended. They were approved unanimously.

Public Comment: None

OLD BUSINESS

Historic Element Revision: Commissioner Pratt stated that the Revision Committee had met twice and has listed historic properties based on structure, age and or significant history. He announced that the Planning Board has hired Planner Tamara Lee to help write the update to the Master Plan.

John Bull Sleepers: No report

Pattern Book: Commissioner Pratt stated that the book will include Hightstown's growth rings defining the oldest areas of homes. He shared updated pages with the board.

Stockton Street Streetscape Improvements: Commissioner Buriak stated that the project was finished for the winter to resume the end of March. It is half done.

Commissioner Buriak described plans for cleaning the marble monument and cannons. He stated that the entire project is up for multiple awards and was highlighted at the recent League of Municipalities Conference in Atlantic City.

Commissioner Buriak described the trees planned; there will be larger trees - Oak and Elm, and smaller trees – Quonza Cherry, Winterberry and Redbud.

Circa Plaques, whistle stop sign, district signage:

Commissioner Keith shared more prices for the plaques. For the cast bronze, it would be \$260 per piece against \$150 for aluminum. For 70 bronze plaques, the cost would be \$18,210. Commission Pratt reported that he checked with Cranbury who had customized plaques at \$250 each. He suggested that we could do them in a mass amount and then have them engraved which might cost less. It was suggested that we seek money through grants and fundraising.

Commissioner Buriak reported that a bill was recently passed regarding Historic Register properties that included a standardized marking system so we may need to investigate the correct process. Commissioner Pratt requested Council Liaison Musing to look into it.

Peddie Lake Bridge Committee: Commissioner Keith reported that the amount raised so far is approximately \$11,000. He discussed various plans for fundraising which include a restaurant night and a black tie gala hosted by Voices of Hightstown. Note: Commissioner Buriak has stepped down from the bridge committee.

NEW BUSINESS

Pattern Book: Commissioner Pratt suggested inviting Mark Hewitt, author of *The Vintage House; A Guide to Successful Renovations and Additions*, to a symposium jointly sponsored by the EW Hightstown Historical Society and the HPC to highlight our book and to present information on successful renovations. The fee for Mr. Hewitt to speak would be \$250 and it could be split between the HPC and the Historical Society. The Historical Society has agreed to pay half. Commissioner Pratt explained again that Mr. Hewitt had contributed a great deal to the pattern book by identifying styles of the Hightstown houses. There was some discussion. Several members of the commission stated that they approved of the idea considering all the help Mr. Hewitt had given the HPC to publish its pattern book. Commissioner Buriak stated that we could probably find other speakers for free who could also speak on the same topic. No motion was made and Commissioner Pratt tabled the discussion until the next meeting.

Meeting Schedule for Next Year: Commissioner Pratt suggested meeting every other month, in light of the difficulties we have had this year with quorums. Commissioner Patten checked the ordinance and stated that it mandates the HPC to meet a minimum of once a month. Meetings may be canceled for lack of quorum (4 members), lack of applications to process or for other good reason which shall be noted in the minutes.

Membership: Commissioner Pratt asked Commissioner Patten if she wanted to continue as an HPC Commissioner. She explained that after two terms, she was stepping down. Commissioner Mariboe also explained that he would be stepping down as it was difficult for him to attend meetings.

Commissioner Pratt thanked both of them and presented them with gift certificates from Molto Bene in recognition of their many years of service.

Adjournment:

The motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Buriak and seconded by Commissioner Keith. All were in favor and the meeting was adjourned at 8:40 pm.

Next Meeting: January 20, 2011; 7:30pm @ Borough Hall.