



## Hightstown Historic Preservation Commission

Thursday, January 22, 2010  
7:30 pm @ Borough Hall



### MINUTES

**Call to order:** Chairwoman Kirkpatrick called the meeting to order at 7:35.

**Open Public Meeting Act Statement:** Chairwoman Kirkpatrick read the Open Public Meeting Act Statement.

#### Roll Call:

Commissioner Kirkpatrick:	Present
Commissioner Brown:	<i>Absent</i>
Commissioner Buriak:	<i>Absent</i>
Commissioner Cox:	Present
Commissioner Ely:	Present
Commissioner Keith:	<i>Absent</i>
Commissioner Mariboe:	<i>Absent</i>
Commissioner Patten:	Present
Commissioner Pratt:	Present
Council Liaison Musing:	Present

**Election of Officers:** Commissioner Pratt was nominated for Chairperson by Kathy Patten. Commissioner Cox seconded the nomination. The vote was unanimous in favor of Commissioner Pratt's nomination for Chairperson. Commissioner Cox was nominated for Vice Chairperson by Commissioner Pratt. Commissioner Patten seconded the nomination. The vote was unanimous in favor of Commissioner Cox's nomination for Vice Chairperson. Commissioner Patten was nominated for Secretary by Commissioner Pratt. Commissioner Ely seconded the nomination. The vote was unanimous in favor of Commissioner Patten's nomination for Secretary.

Councilman Musing was welcomed as our liaison to Council. Commissioner Kirkpatrick explained his role to him as a conduit, reporting on our meetings and answering questions raised by the Council at their meetings. Councilman Musing congratulated Commissioner Pratt on his new role as Chairman.

**Resignation:** Commissioner Kirkpatrick reported that she had submitted a letter of resignation to Mayor Patten effective January 30, 2010. It was accepted by the Mayor and the Historic Preservation Commission with regret and praise for the efforts and fine work done by Commissioner Kirkpatrick during her tenure.

**Public Comment:** None.

**Minutes:** The minutes from the previous meeting were distributed. A motion to approve with the correction of the spelling of Dimitri Musing's name was made by Commissioner Kirkpatrick and seconded by Commissioner Cox. The minutes were approved as corrected with a unanimous vote.

**Stockton Street Streetscape Improvements:** Commissioner Patten reported that the borough engineer has submitted a request to be paid an additional \$11,000 for services required by the state in the application process for the Stockton Street project.

**Demolition Ordinance:** Commissioner Pratt reported the Demolition Ordinance was proposed to be passed by the Council last month but they had sent it back to the Planning Board for revision and clarification. He stated that the zoning subcommittee will be meeting with the Zoning Officer next week and then will submit the ordinance at the next Planning Board for their review and approval so that it can be again proposed to the Council.

**John Bull Sleepers:** Commissioner Patten reported that Commissioner Kirkpatrick and she continue to work on the application.

**Historic Element Revision:** Commissioner Pratt reported that a subcommittee of the Planning Board will be meeting to update the Master Plan.

**Booklet of Housing Styles:** Commissioner Pratt reported that the book is 90% done. He stated that what had started out as a pattern book to be a resource to help people making alterations and listing suppliers had developed into a book with many resources and interesting history. He reported that Bob Craig, a local historian from the State Historic Preservation Office, had reviewed it and raised questions that Commissioner Pratt has answered. He stated that the book will contain styles that exist in town beyond the Historic District. Commissioner Ely continues to research elements in the town to be pictured in the book. She also described the role that Dick Hutchinson and Clark Hutchinson have played in historical research for the House Tour.

**Cedar Hill Cemetery:** No report

**Stockton Street Advisory Committee:** It was decided that this group will function as an Ad-hoc Committee when needed.

**Ghost Tour Discussion:**

**Anthony November's** house has been identified as one with a ghost.

**House next to Jim and Barbara Walker**, aka the Ashton House, has also been identified as a house with a ghost.

The Octagon House was discussed as one that had history regarding a ghost.

It was suggested that someone contact Matt Chiappardi from the Windsor Hights Herald since he had done a story on ghosts in town around Halloween last year.

### **New Business:**

Dates for the year's meetings were set for 7:30 pm on the following dates:

February 18	September 16
March 18	October 21
April 15	November 18
May 20	December 2
June 17	January 20, 2011
July 15	
August	TBA

.Goals for the year were discussed:

- Commissioner Kirkpatrick suggested a series of short articles that could be drawn from the Pattern Book and published in the weekly newspaper. Commissioner Ely offered to go through the book to offer comments and or suggestions. The book will include a list of resources.
- A series of educational activities, i.e. a series of various architectural features based on the book could be developed.
- More cooperative ventures with the Hightstown East Windsor Historical Society were suggested.
- A "Find This" or "Identify This" feature for the local papers that would introduce architectural elements was suggested.
- A talk on Historic Colors, combined with the book's publication was discussed.
- Meadow Lakes was suggested as a venue for some of the events above.

Commissioner Ely reported that Downtown Hightstown suggested that the town needs more signage of historic architecture and artifacts. The need for signage was discussed.

Council Liaison Musing asked the group's opinion of the banner process. Commissioner Kirkpatrick stated that Commissioner Buriak described the banners but they were never officially discussed as an agenda item. There was no vote or motion made regarding them

### **Adjournment:**

The motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Cox and seconded by Commissioner Kirkpatrick. All were in favor and the meeting was adjourned at 9:45 pm.