



Hightstown Historic Preservation Commission

Thursday May 20, 2011



MINUTES

Call to order: Chairman Pratt was delayed, so Chairman Ely called the meeting to order at 7:42 PM.

Open Public Meeting Act Statement: Chairman Ely read the Open Public Meetings Act Statement:

Roll Call :

Commissioner Brown:	Present
Commissioner Buriak:	Present
Commissioner Carney:	Present
Commissioner Cox:	Present
Commissioner Ely:	Present
Commissioner Keith:	Present
Commissioner Pratt:	Present
Commissioner Smith:	Present
Council Liaison Vanderbeck:	Absent

Minutes: The minutes from the last meeting were distributed by email prior to the meeting, with a few copies distributed at the meeting. Commissioner Keith moved that the minutes be approved as read. Commissioner Buriak seconded the motion.

Public Comment: None

Guest: Andrea Tingey, New Jersey CLG Coordinator was introduced, and delayed her presentation until Commissioner Pratt arrived. Upon his arrival, Ms. Tingey began her presentation with a hand out, and stated that the primary goal of the CLG is to strengthen the Historic Preservation Commission. Becoming a CLG will give the commission eligibility for Federal Grants, opportunity to endorse recommendations to the National Historic Commission, provide technical assistance in completing a review (ie. best practices, legal issues) and receiving training yearly via seminars and HP conferences. A CLG is required to complete an Annual Report with a statement of the ordinance in effect, how used, and a statement on the number of opinions done and the outcome of said opinions. The ordinance must in compliance with the Municipal Land Use Law and an overlay is necessary. An application can take up to 2 years to be approved.

Old Business:

Historic Element Revision: Commissioner Buriak stated that an all new visionary document needs to be done. Discussion was opened to the floor. Due to unfinished business with the

coordination with the Environmental Commission and other unresolved issues, Commissioner Ely made a motion to table further discussion until the next meeting, Commissioner Brown seconded the motion. The motion was passed.

John Bull Sleepers: No report.

Pattern Book: Commissioners Pratt and Carney are removing any article that is not completed, and are editing all completed articles for publication.

Stockton Streetscape: Commissioner Buriak reported that the monument will be completed for the Memorial Parade except for the lighting. The turnpike signs and Hightstown signage are being repaired and will be placed near the schools on Stockton Street. Commissioner Smith is assisting in the research of the original unveiling of the monument. There is supposed to be a capsule under the monument holding metals from deceased soldiers. There is no intention to find, remove, or disturb this capsule.

Greenway Pedestrian Bridge: Commissioner Pratt and Commissioner Keith reported that there will be a delay in the placement of the bridge due to the aforementioned construction problems. The new date for the bridge will be in October. The Taste of Hightstown fundraiser will be on Saturday, the 22nd from 3PM-7PM.

Plaques- Hightstown: The Hightstown plaque which was written by the town historians, was presented to the commission. The Town Council approved the sign at the last meeting.

Circa Plaque Orders: Due to time constraints of several members, this will be tabled until the next meeting.

New Business:

Opinion: 309 Stockton Street- John Hostetler. We have no problem with the work and replacement products. Improvements will not compromise the historic appearance of the house.

.Opinion:215 Stockton Street-Joe Lalka Mr. Lalka was cited that his railings were not to code. Commissioner Pratt advised Mr. Lalka that if the ground was raised on one side, the porch would be at a height from the ground that would not require a raise in railing height. Mr. Lalka more or less challenged our Opinion process. Mr. Buriak advised that we should inform our attorney that our ordinance was not in compliance with the MLUL.

Turnpike Sign: A suggestion had been made to see about a turnpike sign with information about Historic Hightstown. It was stated that the Turnpike Authority determines if a topic is worthwhile and reasonable, and it would cost about \$5,000. The suggestion was no longer feasible.

Hightstown Fair Tours: The Fair Committee Chairman asked our Commission if we would consider giving a tour of our Historic District during the Fair on October 1. After some discussion, where there was concern on whether the noise of Fair, traffic, etc. would make it near impossible for a speaker to be heard. Several of the Commissioners are already involved in other areas of the Fair. Commissioner Ely will explore some possibilities for the tours.

District Awards, Summer Calendar: Due to time constraints of several members, these topics will be tabled until the next meeting.

Adjournment: Commissioner Buriak moved that the meeting be adjourned, Commissioner Keith^{2nd} the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 9:19 PM

Next Meeting: June 16, 2011