



MINUTES

Thursday, March 19, 2015
7:30 pm @ Hightstown-East Windsor
Historical Society



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):	Present
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):	Present		

Council Liaison C. Montferrat (CM): Present

Planning Bd. Liaison F. Montferrat (FM): *Absent*

New Member: Council Liaison C. Montferrat swore in Jason Honsel as the Mayor was not available.

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

Public Comment: None.

Guests: None.

Opinion Requests:

126 Stockton Street – Jose Hidalgo. Mr. Hidalgo was due to attend this meeting as a follow up to the 2/19/2015 meeting, but he did not. RP had the George Chin remind him ahead of time. RP advised George Chin that Mr. Hidalgo did not come to the meeting.

Juan Ordonez – RP suggested that the commissioners visit the house on Stockton Street to review what has been done and possibly reassess the Opinion requirements. No update.

Old Business:

Certified Local Government: No progress was made since last meeting. RP and CM will work on a response document for the commissioners to review at the next meeting.

Steward of Hightstown History: The Trenton Times reported positively on the Steward of History plaque. The application has been posted on the Borough website. The HPC received a self-nomination from Dan Buriak. RP would like to nominate Chris & Holly Moraitis. In filling out the form RP found that it was overly complicated and difficult to nominate someone and then require them to produce background info and photos. The commission decided to omit the requirements for background info and photos, and also to allow a property owner to nominate themselves. PC said that it would be nice to nominate a property outside of the district. The deadline for nominations was set for May 20th, with

deliberation at the May 21st HPC meeting. Nominated property owners will be invited to observe deliberations. The award will be given possibly sometime during Memorial Day festivities.

Historic District Descriptive Sign: RP received a quote and mockup from Franklin Bronze, the manufacturer of all the circa signs, for a 24" x 24" sign. The amount is \$1,166.40. WC had some comments on the language and will bring edits to the next meeting. CM would like to see a curved top to incorporate the borough seal. RT would like to get an estimate from a supplier he knows. The commission asked that RP forward the mockup to all. *Post Meeting: Mockup emailed 2/20/15.* WC does not have the sign language. CM will forward language to WC. WC will bring comments to the April meeting. RT received a similar quote. It was agreed to stay with Franklin Bronze.

Preserve America Community: RP called the Preserve America facilitator to inquire to the status of the application. A letter has been mailed with additional information that is needed. *Post Meeting: no letter received as of 2/20/15.* Letter was received. RP and WC working on a response. WC will have final letter by 3/23/15. It was decided that the Mayor and WC as vice chair should sign the letter.

Walking Tour Brochure / Phone App: RP to forward HTML of mockup to all commissioners. RP did not send. Topic was not discussed.

Classic Towns Program (DVRPC): The Borough Council approved the Classic Towns initiative by resolution. RP notified Karen Cilurso of Classic Towns and they will start the process and send a list of what Hightstown needs to do to RP. RP has been fund raising with local businesses and churches. So far he has approximately \$1,600 of the (2 year) \$5,000 fee in pledges.

District Resident Info Brochure: The commission would like to develop a brochure to distribute to residents and real estate agents about the requirements of living in the Stockton Street Historic District. 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.

New Business:

Commissioner Education: One of the requirements once Hightstown becomes a CLG is that all commissioners must attend Historic Preservation training yearly. The NJ Historic Trust hosts a Preservation Conference every year that would qualify. The cost is approximately \$65 per person. As an alternative, the HPC can have an instructor do a group lesson on site. This would range between \$400 and \$600 per year. There is also the possibility to share this lesson with the Cranbury HPC as they are already a CLG and have the same yearly requirement.

National Register Nomination: RP found out that 421 North Main (Wyckoff Homestead) and 503 North Main (Applegate Residence) qualify for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places. This is a result of an Opinion letter from the SHPO from 12/30/2013, but just received. Additionally Councilman Montferrat has a course requirement to nominate a property for the National Register. RP discussed a third property – the Beekman house as the owners had previously expressed interest. RP had a discussion with the owner of 503, Mary Kyle and she is interested, but plans to sell the property. If Connor is going to do this house it needs to be done now as owner approval is required. The current owner of 421 is the bank and would therefore need to wait for a buyer. The Beekman house is owned

by Commissioner RT and his wife and could be done at a later time. Mary Kyle will deliver all the history she has on 503, and CM will begin the process immediately. This will be a learning process for all commissioners so that it can be done by the HPC next time.

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.

Budget: The commission requested a budget amount of \$2,500. This is to cover the district sign, the website cost, the newsletter and education. CM will produce a list of expenses and request the budget to council. It was noted that the case should be made by CM that the commission since its inception has almost never spent its budget.

Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 pm.

Next Meeting: April 16, 2015 – 7:30pm, HEWHS