

Hightstown Historic Preservation Commission Minutes

Thursday, March 16, 2017 Re-Organization Meeting

7:00pm @Borough Hall

Call to Order: Chairman Dimitri Musing called the meeting to order at 7:07pm

Open Public Meeting Act Statement: Chairman Musing read the Open Public Meetings Act Statement.

Attendees:

Dimitri Musing, Chairman

Jean Ruggiero-Mair

Philippe Cardoso

Dodie Colavecchio, Planning Board Liaison

Approval of Agenda: Ms. Colavecchio approved, Ms. Ruggiero-Mair seconded, all in favor.

Approval of Minutes – February 16, 2017 Regular Meeting: Ms. Ruggiero-Mair motioned for accepting minutes, Mr. Cardoso seconded. All in favor minus Ms. Colavecchio who abstained.

Public Comment: Resident Doug Mair suggested the HPC By-laws be changed to allow all Hightstown residents be eligible for the Stewardship of Hightstown award (currently all members of the HPC are not eligible to receive the award). He is in favor of the Hightstown Planning Board be the lead authority in the borough's building and planning and keep the HPC as a "weak" authority. He is in favor of the Rug Mill Re-Development – feels it's paramount to the success of Hightstown. He is hopeful the HPC can spearhead a stronger PILOT program for homeowners of older homes (abatements over a set time period).

Old Business: Chairman Musing has begun research on proposing decorative banners within the historic district and showed preliminary designs for the banners. He is looking at two companies for quotes (Nabco and World Class Flags). He will write up a proposal to present to Council asking for the 2017 HPC budget to be \$8,000 to cover the cost of the proposed decorative banners.

Chairman and Commissioners Comments: Chairman Musing commented on the Hildago Stockton Street property – no effort by owner to comply with outstanding issues to house and site. He asked commissioners to report any run-down properties.

Commissioner Cardoso pointed out that many properties in the downtown district always have their trash and recycle bins out on the street – not the look we want for the downtown area.

Adjournment: Ms. Colavecchio moved that the meeting be adjourned, Ms. Ruggiero seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 8:25pm.

Next Meeting: Thursday, April 20, 2017.