Laytonsville Historic District Commission Meeting Minutes, May 16, 2022

**LAYTONSVILLE HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION**

**Videoconference Meeting Minutes**

**Monday May 16, 2022**

**Present:**

Charles Hendricks, Chair

Andy Drouliskos

Michael McDonald

Jill Ruspi

Jennifer Sizemore

**Absent:**

Michele Shortley, Alternate

**Attendees:**

Mary Burke, Secretary

Bill and Ann Fitts, St. Bartholomew’s Church

An unidentified observer who did not speak

**Opening:** Chair Hendricks called the meeting to order at 7:31 He noted that a quorum was present.

**New Business:**

Approval of minutes from April meeting: Member McDonald made a motion to approve the minutes as edited. Member Ruspi seconded and all approved.

Public Hearing for Historic District Work Permit Application 02-22 to paint the residence and office building of St. Bartholomew’s Church at 21615 Laytonsville Road a shade of blue:

* + The church is looking for a new rector and thought that now would be a good time for some improvements.
  + The building is Arts and Crafts Cottage style and choosing contrasting colors will make the architectural features stand out. The siding will be a light blue- gray and the trim will be white.

The hearing was closed at 7:45.

Member Sizemore made a motion to approve the application as submitted and Member Drouliskos seconded. All were in favor.

Discussion of work plans for consolidating the design guidelines adopted for the use of the Historic District Commission:

* + Chair Hendricks was able to combine the guidelines and sent the document to Member McDonald for editing. He will send a clean version to the rest of the members before the next meeting. If there are any other edits, they can be sent to Member McDonald.
  + Chair Hendricks stated that moving some items in the guidelines clarified some things. He observed that the Town Council will want the merged document to reflect what was previously approved.
  + A member observed that the commission will need to add how to handle solar panels. It was learned that the town can regulate the placement of panels.
  + Chair Hendricks suggested the commission focus on the integration of the document. Once we have a version we like, we can discuss items to add.

Discussion of the May 10 training session on “Connecting with Your Community” sponsored by the Maryland Association of Historic District Commissions and the symposium that association will hold at St. Mary’s City on May 21:

* Chair Hendricks and Member Ruspi attended the May 10 session.
* They learned that people can click on links on the Gaithersburg HDC website to specific subjects in that city’s guidelines.
* Member Ruspi liked the way the instructor presented the training and that she had examples to share. It was all very relevant and it was clear she had a lot of experience.
* Chair Hendricks said the focus of the training was how to teach the community what the HDC does and how to use the resources of the state association.
* The idea of partnering with other local groups came up. An example would be to partner with the Laytonsville Historical Center.
* Plaques were also discussed. They could be placed on homes with historic significance.
* Would it be possible to have a list of contractors that specialize in working on historic homes? Member Sizemore worried that this could get the town in trouble. Other commission members agreed.
* Chair Hendricks will attend the May 21 symposium.

**Old Business:**

**Open Forum:**

* + The new brick walk was installed at Town Hall before the parade date.
  + Rolling Ridge Lot 5 (21720 Rolling Ridge Lane) has had the foundation poured, and it has been waterproofed. The framing should start this week. The developer hopes to have the home built by August.

**Miscellaneous:**

The next meeting will be Monday, June 20, 2022.

Member Ruspi moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:48. Member McDonald seconded, and all approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Burke