Laytonsville Historic District Commission Meeting Minutes, June 20, 2022

**LAYTONSVILLE HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION**

**Videoconference Meeting Minutes**

**Monday June 20, 2022**

**Present:**

Charles Hendricks, Chair

Andy Drouliskos

Michael McDonald

Jill Ruspi

Jennifer Sizemore

**Absent:**

Michele Shortley, Alternate

**Attendees:**

Mary Burke, Secretary

**Opening:** Chair Hendricks called the meeting to order at 7:36. He noted that a quorum was present.

**New Business:**

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

Discussion of work on consolidating the two sets of design guidelines adopted by the Town Council for the use of the Historic District Commission:

* + Member McDonald has been looking over the redline version of the document and has looked at all of the edits and cleaned it up. The conflicts have largely been removed. He would like to share the redline version and cleaned version to the rest of the group to review before the next meeting.
  + Member Ruspi created some comments that were broader than the consolidation document. These will be held on to and reviewed when discussing the document.
  + A new member, Kris Bradsher, will need to be brought up to speed regarding the documents.
  + Chair Hendricks stated the merged document came out better than expected. There were no major conflicts and it was much easier to understand. Hopefully the Town Council will agree that this is a step in the right direction.

Report on the May 21 symposium on archaeology and cultural landscapes in Maryland hosted by the Maryland Association of Historic District Commissions at St. Mary’s College of Maryland:

* + Chair Hendricks said that it was a lot of fun. He was able to meet people from other Historic District Commissions. Here are some of the things that he learned:
    - Dr. Julia King, an Archaeology Professor at St. Mary’s College, shared the early history and contact of settlers and indigenous people of Maryland. There was also a discussion of Black History.
    - Laytonsville does not have much archaeology related to indigenous people. The interesting stories were not particularly relevant to here.
    - Michelle Cable, Executive Director of the Maryland Agricultural Land Protection Foundation, discussed the state’s Program Open Space. 340,000 acres have been preserved for agriculture, with some of that acreage in Montgomery County. The goal is to have 1.03 million acres preserved by 2030.

**Old Business:**

**Open Forum:**

* + The painting at the St. Bartholomew’s parsonage has begun.
  + The exterior framing has been completed on the house in Lot 5 of the Rolling Ridge Subdivision, and the house is still on track to be completed by August.
  + The new roof was installed on the house at the southwest corner of Brink Road and White House Lane.
  + The Board of Appeals granted an application from a communications company to put equipment on the monopole at the Laytonsville VFD. The firehouse is in the historic district, but, because federal law requires the approval of the installation, no HDC action is needed.
  + Mr. Fuentes, who lives at 7329 Brink Road, has inquired about the possibility of building a second structure for a guest house.
  + The vacant lot on the northeast corner of Howard Ave. and 108 is currently used for parking by Atco and All Stage and Sound. The fire department owns the property. Is this something that should be done on a residential lot?

**Miscellaneous:**

Congratulations to Jill Ruspi who is retiring from the Historic District Commission after 19 years. Thank you for your thoughtful approach to all of the applications that have been received in those 19 years. Thank you on behalf of the Commission for your years of service. We hope to see you join future meetings as a citizen.

The next meeting will be Monday, July 18.

Member Ruspi moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:49 Member Drouliskos seconded, and all approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Burke