Laytonsville Historic District Commission Monthly Meeting, December 18, 2023

**LAYTONSVILLE HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION**

**Videoconference Meeting Minutes**

**Monday, December 18, 2023**

**Present:**

Jen Sizemore, Chair

Kris Bradsher

Andy Drouliskos

Rebecca Saah

**Absent:**

Patrick Murray

**Attendees:**

Mary Burke, Town Clerk

Stephanie Simpson

Brody Barger, Frederick Fence Co,

Dan and Anne Wolf

Jim Ruspi

**Opening:**

Chair Sizemore called the meeting to order at 7:32. The meeting was held by Zoom video conferencing. Chair Sizemore noted that a quorum was present and that the meeting was being recorded.

The first order of business was to approve the minutes from the October 16, 2023, meeting. Member Murray made some edits, which made the minutes read a little more smoothly. Member Drouliskos made a motion to approve the minutes as amended. Member Saah seconded. The minutes were approved unanimously. The next order of business was to approve the minutes from the November 6, 2023, meeting. Member Bradsher made some edits. Member Bradsher made a motion to approve the minutes as amended. Member Drouliskos seconded. The minutes were approved unanimously.

**Public Hearing on Historic District Work Permit Application 10-23 as submitted by Stephanie Simpson to install a fence at 21513 Laytonsville Rd.:**

Member Bradsher motioned to open the public hearing. Member Drouliskos seconded. Unanimously approved. The public hearing was opened at 7:41 p.m.

Chair Sizemore reviewed the application for the installation of a 5’ tall black metal fence with 2 gates, one 10’ wide and one 4’ wide. The application also requests 18 linear feet of 6’ tall cedar horizontal board fence along one side of the back deck. Stephanie Simpson shared where the fence will be installed, and where the gates will be located. Brody Barger shared photos of the metal fence style, and also explained the reason for the cedar fence on the deck is for privacy.

Member Saah made a motion to approve the application and issue the permit. Member Drouliskos seconded. Unanimously approved. The Town Clerk agreed to work with the mayor to get the approval letter sent via email in addition to the hard copy.

Member Bradsher made a motion to close the public hearing. Member Saah seconded. Unanimously approved. The public hearing was closed at 7:47.

**Open forum on Laytonsville historic preservation issues:**

Jim Ruspi shared work that he would like to have done to the steps at the front of the house. Currently there are two semi-circular steps leading to the front door. They are hazardous because they aren’t very deep, and there is no handrail. He has had two contractors look at the scope of work. The steps could be extended 12”, and a railing can be installed. Both contractors suggested the steps be rectangular. Member Saah stated that if it is a safety concern, we can’t say no. The rectangular shape is not a problem, and the railing needs to be installed to county code. Jim Ruspi said the contractors suggested the railing be wrought iron. Member Bradsher agreed with Member Saah. Chair Sizemore suggested that he get solid estimates and submit a Historic District Work Permit Application.

Anne and Dan Wolf were recognized by Chair Sizemore, and they did not have anything to say. Chair Sizemore will send a link to their Historic District Work Permit Application to the members of the Historic District Commission tomorrow.

The next HDC meeting will be on Monday, January 15, 2023. This meeting will include a public hearing.

**Adjournment:**

Member Saah moved to adjourn the meeting. Member Drouliskos seconded the motion. Unanimously approved. The meeting was adjourned at 8:02 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mary Burke, Town Clerk