

TOWN OF WASHINGTON
WASHINGTON HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION
Calhoun-Ives, Sunny Ridge and Washington Green Historic Districts

Minutes – February 27, 2023

Members Present: Mr. Hollinger, Ms. Mills
Members Absent: Ms. Boyer, Ms. Averill, Ms. Woodroffe
Alternates Present: Mr. Rimsky, Mr. Fairbairn, Mr. Ferreira
Clerk: Mr. Buell

The Chair called the regular meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and seated Mr. Hollinger, Ms. Mills, and Mr. Rimsky (for Ms. Averill), Mr. Ferreira (for Ms. Woodroffe), and Mr. Fairbairn (for Ms. Boyer).

Regular Meeting

Consideration of Minutes for the January 23, 2023 Meeting

Motion: To accept the January 23, 2023 meeting minutes as written. Motion put forth by Ms. Mills, seconded by Mr. Rimsky. Passed 5-0.

Discussion of Request from the Zoning Commission

Mr. Hollinger informed the Commission that he had received a letter from the Zoning Commission which had asked if the Historic District Commission would be in favor of a prohibition of multi-family housing development within Town of Washington Historic Districts. He explained that while all Town of Washington Historic Districts had been included within this request, the specific focus of the request pertained to the Green Historic District.

Mr. Hollinger indicated that he was surprised by this request because multi-family housing presently exists within the Town of Washington Green Historic District. The Commission then discussed several existing multi-family properties within this district.

Mr. Fairbairn indicated that he did not feel that multi-family housing would relate to Historic District Commission guidelines because the Commission's purview relates to the appearance of structures within the Historic Districts, not their use. He explained that presently, the Commission already has the authority to limit multi-family buildings in both size and appearance.

Commission members agreed with Mr. Fairbairn's sentiments. Following a brief discussion, Mr. Hollinger indicated that he would respond to the Zoning Commission, and would inform them that the Historic District Commission has no objections to multi-family housing. The Commission expressed approval.

New/Other Business

Motion: To include new business by Mr. Hollinger, seconded by Mr. Rimsky.
Passed 5-0.

Mr. Hollinger informed the Commission that Ms. Boyer's husband had recently passed away. Following a brief discussion of this loss, the Commission asked that Mr. Buell include within the meeting minutes the following sentiment.

Members of the Historic District Commission would like to express their most sincere condolences to fellow Commission member, Ms. Boyer, for the loss of her husband, Jack Boyer.

Mr. Hollinger then informed the Commission that he had received information from the Frederick Gunn School regarding renovations and asbestos removal at one of their buildings. He indicated that this work would potentially involve the replacement of windows, and construction of a support under the porch, and that this would fall under the category of a "repair in kind" by Commission regulations. He indicated that the State Historic Preservation Office had reviewed the proposal, and had approved the project as well. Mr. Rimsky indicated that he had no objection to this proposal as long as the finished work would not alter the appearance of the building. A brief discussion ensued.

Mr. Rimsky indicated that the Historic Review Committee had begun work to create an online database of buildings within the Town of Washington which are 75 years old or older.

Adjournment

Motion: To adjourn the meeting at 7:21 p.m. by Ms. Mills, seconded by Mr. Rimsky. Passed 5-0.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dennis Buell

Dennis Buell

Town of Washington

Historic District Commission Clerk

3-6-2023

A link to access a recording of this meeting is below.

https://townofwashingtongcc-my.sharepoint.com/:f:/g/personal/dbuell_washingtonct_org/Et6chBztWztGqRSfryuiTNEBZmQFnJFfO89D78jAoOncpw?e=3XWYly