

Sykesville Historic District Commission Minutes

January 24, 2017

DRAFT

The Sykesville Historic District Commission (SHDC) meeting was held on January 24, 2017 in the Conference Room at the Sykesville Town House. Commissioner Fogg called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

PRESENT: Commissioners Norman Fogg, Melissa Clark, and Michael Johnston. Council Member Stacy Link

STAFF: Dawn Ashbacher, Town Manager
Kerry Chaney, Town Clerk

SHDC MINUTES: December 5, 2016 – Council Member Link motioned and Commissioner Fogg seconded to approve the December 5, 2016 minutes with the revisions provided. Commissioners Clark and Johnston abstained.

BUSINESS:

- **Public Hearing on proposed Street Furniture and Sandwich Board Sign Guidelines**

Merchants were invited, as these guidelines would more directly affect them than residents, to give their feedback. One question, about whether the guidelines extend to private property and porches, was received via email prior to the meeting. Mr. and Mrs. Dearie were present and asked a similar question, if the guidelines would pertain to the tables and chairs that are on the porch of Baldwin's Station Restaurant. Commissioner Fogg explained that he does not believe the guidelines should extend to porches and private property based on the guidance of Richard Wagner, AIA, who wrote the Historic Design Guidelines. Mr. Wagner said anything nailed down and permanent, including the construction of the porch, would fall under the purview of the guidelines, but things that are moveable and replaceable, such as tables and chairs, would fall under interiors, which the SHDC does not review. An example of a fixed element that the SHDC would review are the fence posts in front of the French Twist. Another point raised by the Commissioners is that if the SHDC decided to extend these guidelines to porches and private property in the commercial district, they would also extend to the porch seating in the residential district.

Zoning is a different matter than the SHDC review. All seating needs to be reviewed by the Zoning Administrator, which is separate from the SHDC.

Sandwich board signs will follow the same rule as street furniture in that if the signs are on private property, the SHDC will not review them, however they do ask that the owners consider the guidelines when placing sandwich board signs on private property.

REVIEW OF APPLICATIONS:

- #17-01 7568 B Main Street Hanging sign and light above door
The applicant was in attendance to discuss her application for a hanging sign and a light over the door. She explained that she tried to find a similar light style to those used on the Mueller building and the Carriage House. The finish is an antique bronze or nickel finish, not shiny. The height measurement provided is to the top of the door on the Oklahoma Avenue side of the building. The sign would be above that and would be in compliance with the height requirement of eight feet.
A motion was made by Council Member Link and seconded by Commissioner Johnston to approve the application for 7568 B Main Street per the guidelines pages 35 and 38. All voted in favor

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Gate House Museum – The curator of the Gate House, Jack White, is hoping to reopen by mid-May. He has been working on aesthetics and design as well as participating with the Smithsonian exhibit through the Springfield Hospital and the Carroll County Farm Museum. He has also created a mission statement for the museum.

Schoolhouse – Nothing new to report

BUSINESS:

- HDC attendance at Merchant Meeting, Friday January 27: Dawn Ashbacher, Town Manager, asked if any of the Commissioners can attend the merchant meetings, which happen the last Friday of every month. Commissioners Fogg and Johnston said they would be able to attend some of the meeting.
- Special Meeting Date: The Commissioners agreed to three dates that could be used for a special meeting if the Maryland Historical Trust gave their response to the proposed changes to the Warfield guidelines were received in a timely fashion. The three dates are February 2, February 16, and February 21. Each would start at 6:30 P.M.
- Open positions on the Commission: Commissioner Fogg agreed to pursue the open positions on the SHDC. Richard Wagner offered to do a formal orientation for the entire SHDC, which could be shortened or broken into several sections if needed.
- Observation of Violations: There were no observed violations.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business, a motion was made by Council Member Link and seconded by

Commissioner Fogg to adjourn at 8:40 P.M. The Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,
Kerry Chaney, Recording Secretary