

Sykesville Historic District Commission Minutes

October 24, 2017

DRAFT

The Sykesville Historic District Commission (SHDC) meeting was held on October 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: Kerry Chaney, Town Clerk

SHDC MINUTES: September 26, 2017– all motioned to accept the minutes as written.

REVIEW OF APPLICATIONS:

- # 17-14 Flag Poles
Special Projects Coordinator Mark Onheiser was in attendance for the Town of Sykesville. He designed a layout for new flag poles to replace the one that fell over. His design is similar to the layout of the military memorial. It is ADA accessible. A landscape design will come at a later date.

A motion was made by Council Member Link and seconded by Commissioner Clark to approve the application for 7547 Main Street per the guidelines that Richard Wagner had sent regarding walkways and paths. All voted in favor
- #17-15 Removal of Railroad Tracks
Special Projects Coordinator Mark Onheiser was also in attendance for this application from the Town of Sykesville. He has been working with the State Highway Administration (SHA) about removing the old railroad tracks that cross Main Street between 7609 and 7610 Main Street. The tracks have split in at least one location and are a danger to cars crossing over them. SHA is working to get Maryland Historical Trust (MHT) approval to remove the tracks. Once that approval happens, the SHA will remove the tracks and repair the road.

A motion was made by Commissioner Fogg and seconded by Council Member Link to approve the application for the railroad tracks crossing Main Street. All voted in favor.
- #17-16 Business Sign
The applicant was in attendance. He explained that Primerca doesn't want to renew the sign on the building, so their name will be removed. The new sign will be in the same location as the old one, and the only difference is the removal of Primerca. The rear deck is in disrepair. The applicant brought a sample of the wood grain composite material to show the SHDC.

A motion was made by Council Member Link and seconded by Commissioner Clark to approve the application for 7566 Main Street for the replacement of the rear deck and the new business sign. All voted in favor.

- #17-17 Landscaping

The applicant was in attendance. He explained that the landscaping in front of his building at 7609 Main Street was removed and replaced with a weed barrier and rocks after it became infested with insects. He has had conversations with his landlord about the washout that is happening on the hillside behind the building that is causing the rocks to be washed into the sidewalks and street.

A motion was made by Council Member Link and seconded by Commissioner Johnston to allow the applicant to keep the rocks at 7609 Main Street with the stipulation that he dig out the area so the rocks would be below the level of the sidewalk and would not be able to be washed out. All voted in favor.

- #16-01 Reapproval of a Business Sign

The applicant was in attendance. His previous approval expired before he was able to construct and place the business sign. He plans to have the sign be exactly what was previously approved.

A motion was made by Council Member Link and seconded by Commissioner Johnston to reapprove application #16-01 for a business sign at 7609 Main Street. All voted in favor.

Commissioner Fogg mentioned that the neon signs at 7609 Main Street were coming up on the remove by date. The applicant assured the SHDC that the signs would be removed on time.

- #17-18 Replacement of deteriorating exterior

The applicant was in attendance. She would like to remove the Masonite siding that is currently on the second floor of 7533 Main Street and also remove the cross beams. She presented some sample materials that she had been looking at using for the replacement. The SHDC explained that page 15 of the guidelines have a recommendation that masonry side and rear facades of non-contributing buildings that are visible from the public right-of-way, as the second floor of 7533 Main Street is, may use appropriate replacement materials that is compatible in design, scale, proportion, texture, and other defining characteristics. The vinyl replacement material proposed in the application is shiny and would not match the defining characteristics currently seen on the building. They suggested products that are not as expensive or high-maintenance as wood but would be acceptable replacement siding.

A motion was made by Council Member Link and seconded by Commissioner Clark to approve the replacement of the stucco on the side of 7533 Main Street with the possibility of using Hardiplank or Boral siding, or another acceptable replacement material. All voted in favor.

- #17-19 Tree Removal
The tree in question has rotted and poses a safety hazard as it currently overhangs a parking lot.

A motion was made by Council Member Link and seconded by Commissioner Clark to approve the tree removal at 703 Sandosky Road. All voted in favor.

- #16-19 Warfield Complex
Steve McCleaf was present to discuss a letter proposed to be sent from Commissioner Fogg to Elizabeth Hughes, Director of the Maryland Historical Trust. Mr. McCleaf and the SHDC discussed changes to be made to the letter prior to sending it to Director Hughes.

Mr. McCleaf also explained that the Wetlands Mitigation application submitted by the applicant will be reviewed by the MHT because a portion of the mitigation is within the National Register Historic Limits.

BUSINESS:

- The next SHDC meeting will be on Monday, November 27, due to the change in the Mayor and Town Council schedule. The December meeting will be held on December 19 if needed.
- Observation of violations within the Historic District: There has been no response from Cowboys and Angels regarding their bench. A letter will be sent to them regarding removal and infraction fees.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business, a motion was made by Commissioner Fogg and seconded by Commissioner Clark to adjourn at 8:41 P.M. The Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,
Kerry Chaney, Recording Secretary