

**MINUTES of the March 21, 2023 MEETING of the Commission
(via Zoom)**

Adopted: 4/18/23

Members Present: The meeting began at approximately 7:30 p.m. Bob Booher, David Stopak, Marilynn Frey (alternate) and Wendy Harris were present. Jeff McCrehan and Mimi Styles were absent. Rob Gilmore, TC liaison also participated.

Approval of Agenda

The RASEC Resolution was added to the proposed agenda, which was unanimously approved.

Adoption of Minutes

Minutes of the February meeting were unanimously approved, without changes.

Review of Projects

There were no projects submitted for review.

Annual Budget Review

Bob presented the proposed HPC budget for 2023 as developed in the February meeting and sent to the Town Treasurer. It will be reviewed in a special Town Council meeting at the end of March. One new concept will be introduced at that meeting which proposes to increase the annual allocation to the Border Properties Acquisition Fund and expand the definition to include acquisition of contributing properties within town that are in danger of demolition.

150th -Year Celebration

Bob reviewed status of the list of efforts the HPC is sponsoring;

- Historic District Update introduction – Bob will contact Robinson Associates to make a presentation of the new updated version of the nomination and its importance to the Town.
- Cottage Tour handouts – The Woman’s Club is conducting a historic house and garden tour Sunday May 21. The HPC has volunteered to provide brief histories of each cottage. Marilynn volunteered to get the list of houses and work on the handouts.
- Fence/gateway info panels – Bob and Wendy suggested locating informative panels at each end of Grove Avenue that would display some of the history of the enclosing fence and its implications. The Gateway Committee is hesitant about the idea and wants to see the proposed content.
- Missing building layouts/posters – Bob suggests staking out the footprints of some of the significant buildings we have lost: Auditorium, Hotel, Tabernacle, maybe the Train Station, Girls’ and Boy’s Athletic Clubs. These would have the corners located with white painted 4x4 posts and there would be a poster with a photo on a tripod. David offered to help.
- Tour handouts – the Train Station to Circle walking tour by Bob and Peggy on August 12 can be enhanced with a handout

- Art, song, play requests – Pat Patula had suggested asking Grove residents to produce artwork, songs and plays to mark the occasion. There will be a children’s play at the Acorn Library. There were no volunteers to advance the idea.
- Masonry restoration – Bob suggested pushing forward the long-planned-for restoration for the fireplace, various walls and stormwater features. He will retrieve the information and try to move it forward
- Memorial booklet – Pat Patula also suggested publishing a booklet consisting of articles written for the Bulletin along with artwork and photographs of the events. This would happen after all the events are complete. Bob and Marilynn volunteered to work on it.

RASEC Resolution

The resolution was introduced at the March Town Council Meeting and tabled in anticipation of feedback during a Special Town Meeting called for March 27. The Council will receive comments at the meeting and via letters to be posted on the Town Website. Bob had drafted a commentary that provided broader historic context for the events in the resolution. It was reviewed and adopted by the HPC as a work in progress. He will submit it to the website. Rob expressed concern that the comments could be read as diluting the impact of the proposed resolution. Members were encouraged to provide their own comments as well as attend the meeting.

Preservation/Demolition Ordinance

David reported that the Planning Commission discussed various issues at their work session, but have not settled on any measures to work on. They appear to be opposed to establishing a separate subcommittee, but would like the HPC to present their ideas in more detail at the next work session.

Corrections to Architectural Survey

Postponed until the next meeting.

Bulletin Material

Mimi was absent and not able to submit for the April Bulletin.

Planning Commission Meeting

Bob reported on the March PC meeting where they discussed the county ADU regulations and what they had transmitted to the mayor on demolition by neglect. They approved the two projects we reviewed in February: 103 and 405 Brown St.

TC Meeting Report

Rob reported that there were few significant issues related to the HPC concerns.

PC Meeting Coverage

The following was agreed regarding coverage of the PC meetings: April – Marilynn, May – David, June – Bob, July – Wendy. Jeff and Mimi were absent so should cover August and September.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 9:00 pm.

The next meeting will be Tuesday, April 18, at 7:30pm via Zoom.