

**MINUTES of April 15, 2025 MEETING of the Commission
(via Zoom)**

Adopted May 20, 2025

Members Present

The meeting began at approximately 7:40 p.m. Bob Booher, David Stopak, Mimi Styles, Sam Suzich (retiring alternate) and Barbara Raimondo (TC liaison) were present. Bill Earl, Kirk Greenway (new alternate) and Wendy Harris were unable to attend.

Approval of Agenda

Minor changes to the proposed agenda were made and it was unanimously approved.

Adoption of Minutes

Minor corrections were made to the draft minutes of the March meeting, and they were unanimously approved.

Review Session – 110 Ridge Road

Homeowner Deb Tarasevich participated in the review of her project, designed by architect Robyn Renas. Mimi will write up HPC's review.

Commemorative Signage

Sam reported that she had plans to meet with Kathy in the Town Office on Friday next week to obtain photo scans needed for the commemorative signage graphics; she will work on the descriptive text and hopes to get drafts to HPC by the end of the month. Sam confirmed that she had received relevant material that Bob had compiled and used for the Town's 150th Anniversary Celebration tour.

Annual Award

Mimi prepared a table showing all projects HPC had reviewed from 2023 to present. The field of significant projects was narrowed to two contenders, and HPC voted for the recipient of its 2025 award to be presented at the Annual Town Meeting in May.

Circle Fest

Peter Nagrod spoke with Bob and asked for HPC to staff a table at Circle Fest to provide information, and answer questions about the Town, especially for the non-residents who attend. The "Lost Structures" posters that were produced for earlier Town tours and the 150th Anniversary Celebration can be displayed, and a one-page hand-out about the Town could be made available. Whether it is desirable for HPC to "staff a table" at a social event was discussed. Circle Fest is scheduled for May 24 – further consideration can be given at our May meeting.

Bulletin Material

Mimi reported that the March visit to the Peach Orchard Retreat Center (operating on the site of the former Spencerville Camp Meeting) had been cancelled, but their representative has reconfirmed a visit to the grounds and museum the morning of April 16th.

Planning Commission Meeting

Mimi attended the April PC meeting. Topics of particular interest to HPC are included below:

- The owner of **104 Maple Road** has requested removal of the split rail fence erected on Town property behind his home. The Town had installed it to impede a previous owner from using Cherry Avenue to access their outbuilding being used for commercial purposes. Since the current homeowner is erecting a new fence at his property line, it would be difficult to maintain the resulting narrow strip between the two fences, should the split rail fence remain. Peter will facilitate removal.
- Brayan Valeriano, **123 Washington Grove Lane**, attended the meeting and discussed his proposed fence, front porch, back deck, and screened porch additions. No drawings were presented at the meeting. The PC told him the outdated house location survey he has supplied is inadequate for a building permit application. On it, the front setback is not depicted to scale, and the most recent additions to his home are not shown. An accurate boundary survey is needed.
- **Commercial Corner** - on hold until the mayor returns and confers with the Town Attorney.
- The elder Robert Voigt, **300 Ridge Road**, passed away in March; his property is a potential candidate for subdivision.

Town Council Meeting Report

Barbara, TC liaison, provided a summary of the previous evening's meeting. There was nothing new to report on the **Commercial Corner** redevelopment/ordinance change pending discussion between the mayor and town attorney.

- **Crabbs Branch Way Redevelopment** – there is a funding proposal before the Montgomery County Council that would relocate most of the school busses to Gude Drive and a smaller number to a new garage at the back of the Crabbs Branch Way property. This would allow for redevelopment of the property, which has been on hold for years.
- **Landscape Maintenance Contract** – The Council has received bids from three companies, including the current contractor, RJ, and it continues to review details of the bids.
- **Budget** – the Council voted to approve the proposed budget and move it along for action at the Annual Meeting.
- The Council has passed the **Vacant Properties Ordinance**.
- **Fences** formerly required both Town and County permits. Going forward, County permits will not be required.
- The Council is considering **changes to the Town Charter** that would allow more flexibility in scheduling Town elections.
- Leadership Montgomery will present a summary of their **DEIB workshops** at the Annual Town Meeting and potential work going forward.

- **Under consideration** - The Council is considering locking the tennis courts and installing doggie waste bag stations – both proposals need more deliberation.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 9:00 pm. The next meeting will be on Tuesday, April 15, at 7:30pm via Zoom.