

Sykesville Historic District Commission Minutes

August 30, 2016

COMMISSIONERS

PRESENT:

Norman Fogg
Matthew Olsen
Stacy Link, Council Member

Commissioner Olsen called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. in the Conference Room at the Sykesville Town House. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Dawn Ashbacher, Town Manager, was also in attendance.

REVIEW OF APPLICATIONS:

- #16-10 7541 Main Street Business Sign
The applicant was not in attendance. The application was previously before the Commission and the freestanding sign was approved based on a lack of guidelines pertaining to it. There was a request at that time for more information about the hanging sign, which was provided tonight.
A motion was made by Commissioner Olsen and seconded by Commissioner Fogg to approve the application for 7541 Main Street per the guidelines pages 37-38, *Hanging Signs*. All voted in favor.
- #16-13 7537 Main Street Business Sign
Carolyn Garber was in attendance for the applicant. The plan is to replace the existing applied wall sign with a similar sign of the exact same dimensions. The current sign was hung prior to the Historic District Commission's existence. Discussion followed about whether the wording on the sign was appropriate based on the Guidelines. It was brought to the Commission's attention that the new sign would have the addition of two logos, but the rest of the sign would remain unchanged.
A motion was made by Commissioner Fogg and seconded by Commissioner Olsen to approve the application for 7537 Main Street per the guidelines page 36, *Applied Wall Signs*, which do recommend a limit on the content of the signs but based on the sign's location, which is not within the signboard or directly above it, do not apply. All voted in favor.
- #16-14 7533 Main Street Business Sign
The applicant was not in attendance. The application provided enough detail and the sign looks acceptable. There appears to be enough space between the sign and the steps.
A motion was made by Commissioner Olsen and seconded by Commissioner Fogg to approve the application for 7533 Main Street per the guidelines pages 37-38, *Hanging Signs*. All voted in favor.
- #16-15 7540 Main Street Business Sign

Donna Evans was in attendance to discuss her sign application. The sign would be hung in line with Shrimptown Skateshop's hanging sign. The materials all seem to be in compliance with the Guidelines. The sign dimensions given were too large. As per the Guidelines, all hanging signs must be 6.5 square feet or less. The proposed sign was 8.75 square feet. Both the width and height will need to be reduced in order for the sign to comply with the Guidelines and appear proportional.

A motion was made by Commissioner Fogg and seconded by Commissioner Olsen to approve the application for 7540 Main Street contingent on the sign being reduced in size. The business owner will notify Town Staff when she has the dimensions for her smaller sign. This was decided per the guidelines page 37-38, *Hanging Signs*. All voted in favor.

Final Approval (Previously Reviewed):

- #16-11 7538 Main Street Fencing/Wall/Permanent Landscape
Pat Greenwald was in attendance to present the final wording for the plaque. It was submitted to the Commission and added to the file.

A motion was made by Commissioner Olsen and seconded by Commissioner Fogg to formally approve applications #16-08, #16-09, #16-11, and #16-12. All voted in favor.

Business:

Those attending that were interested in becoming a Commissioner were thanked and a brief introduction about the Commission and its importance was given by Commissioner Olsen. The two interested people introduced themselves. They were both encouraged to apply.

Warfield Development Presentation

- Sean Davis and his associates were in attendance to present their preliminary plans and pattern book for Warfield and answer any questions that the Commission may have regarding it. It was brought to the Commission's attention that the planned grocery store will be façade all the way around since it will face away from Route 32. Commissioner Fogg expressed concern over the traffic at the intersection of Springfield Avenue and Route 32. A traffic study is underway, but the intersection was designed for the volume of traffic that is expected to come out of Warfield. Dawn Ashbacher, Town Manager, noted that Richard Wagner, the man who wrote the Town's Historic District Guidelines, will review the Warfield plans and will summarize his thoughts for the Commission by September 20 and will be present at the September HDC meeting. The Commission can also pose specific questions to the Maryland Historical Trust (MHT) for their feedback.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Gate House Museum – Council Member Link announced that there have been several meetings with the curators and the focus will be showing the Town's relationship with Springfield Hospital, for moving forward. She will present a more detailed report at a later meeting

Schoolhouse – Council Member Link and Dawn Ashbacher announced that the Schoolhouse has held events and they have all gone well. There will be a more detailed report given at a later meeting.

BUSINESS:

- Staff Report Feedback – the Commissioners would like the page numbers and sections that pertain to the application written on the Staff Report for their reference during meetings
- Open Positions on the Commission – This was discussed briefly when thanking interested people for coming to the meeting. Commissioner Olsen suggested posting about the open positions on the Sykesville Online Community Facebook page. He will send a draft of his proposed language to Dawn Ashbacher for approval.
- Business Use of Sidewalks Update – There was a meeting the night before with members from the HDC, the Design Committee, the Town Staff, and merchants who have submitted applications. There were 12 applications. Some applications for street furniture and landscaping will have to go through the HDC as well.

There was discussion as to whether or not the HDC should have guidelines pertaining to sandwich boards. The current Guidelines for signs and street furniture could be used to create guidelines about material and content specifically for sandwich boards. It was suggested to ask the MHT for their guidance as to what other towns have in regards to sandwich board guidelines. Dawn Ashbacher also noted that Richard Wagner will be present at the September meeting and he can give his input or guidance at that time.

The Town will not be reviewing the applications for aesthetics, so it was suggested that the Design Committee would want to review them. Council Member Link said the Design Committee would probably like guidelines to base their decisions on; perhaps they could use the HDC Guidelines as a starting point for building their own criteria.

Council Member Link suggested that a sign be installed that the merchants can list their business name on with arrows pointing up and down Main Street. It was also noted that Market Tavern, who submitted a Business Use of Sidewalks application, never submitted a HDC application for their tables and chairs. It would be easier to use the same Business Use of Sidewalks applications for any HDC review necessary. The goal now is to share the current Historic District Guidelines and ask the Design Committee to draw upon those to create their criteria for reviewing applications.

- September Meeting Date – The HDC will meet on Thursday, September 29, 2016 at 7

P.M. to accommodate everyone's schedules.

- Observation of violations within the Historic District – The sandwich boards are getting better since the new ordinance.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business, a motion was made by Council Member Link and seconded by Commissioner Olsen to adjourn at 9:15 P.M. The motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,
Kerry Chaney, Recording Secretary