

Meeting Minutes

Augusta Historic Preservation Commission

December 2, 2015

6:30 pm at City Center, Conference Room D

Members Present: Sylvia Hudson, Phyllis von Herrlich, Lorie Mastemaker, Andy Loman, Dan Stevens

Members Absent: Dale McCormick, Jerry Bumford

Others Present: Betsy Poulin, Richard Bridges, Leo J. Murphy

Introductions

- Dan Stevens – New Commission Member
- Leo J. Murphy – Owner/Applicant of 16 Pleasant Street

Historic Building Plaque – 16 Pleasant Street

- Richard Bridges gave an overview of the project
 - 1871: Built by Samuel Forest Robinson. He was in the Civil War, 16th Maine as a First Lieutenant then a Captain. He resigned and moved to Augusta. Owned a Grocery Store at 130 Water Street.
 - Sold to Watson Hallett. Served in the War of 1812. Ran Freeman's National Bank (1864) and Kennebec Savings Bank (1870) at the same time, until his death.
 - Sold to Harlow Davis. He was Bette Davis' father. She was born in Boston. There is no proof she went into the house, but has a family connection to the property.
 - Sold to Henry W. Plummer. At some point it was turned into a funeral home business.
- Leo J. Murphy showed copies of his original deeds. He bought Plummer's Funeral Home. Still lives in the building.

Motion by Andy that the Historic Building Plaque will read "Robinson – Hallett – Davis House, circa 1871"

Seconded by Sylvia

Vote 5:0. Motion passed.

Minutes

- Minutes from November 4th Public Hearing and Regular Meeting and minutes from November 23rd Meeting.

Dan moved that the minutes be approved.

Sylvia seconded.

Vote 5:0. Motion passed.

Old Business

- 9 Patterson Street. No Wrecking and Demolition Permit Application received yet.

New Business

- Demolition Moratorium in Proposed Historic District language read to the Commission by Lorie.
- Betsy notified the Commission that 20 State Street has been granted a demolition permit. It is located in the proposed historic district as a non-contributing building. A fire occurred on the property one year ago and the Code Officer, Gary Fuller, determined the building to be unsafe.
- Maine State Historic Preservation Commission is reviewing the Local Historic District Ordinance, which should be completed in January. They are not reviewing the Design Guidelines, as those will not be part of the Ordinance.
- Downtown Local Historic District.
 - October 2014, Matt Nazar approached Christy Mitchell at the State Historic Preservation Commission about the application process for nominating the downtown.
 - Matt approached Phyllis about doing research about the process.
 - Lorie and Phyllis met with Christy, then Matt to discuss their findings.
 - A list of contractors is being collected from Christopher Closs and Christy Mitchell. They could perform the necessary work and should be notified about a RFP for the project.
 - In 1982 an inventory was completed of downtown buildings, which Phyllis found. It is hand written and was part of the "Multifaceted District" process. There is lots of information already collected.
 - Possibly the Kennebec Historical Society could volunteer to put the notes in order for the consultant, for a donation to the KHS from the AHPC.
 - Dan was part of the 1982 inventory process and recommended an architectural student could help with the process; they used one for the original inventory.
 - Sylvia felt that a hired consultant would want to conduct their own research on the project, not rely on information previously collected. They might want to use information as a reference, but not a source.
 - AHPC funds could be used to help pay for a consultant.
 - Maine Community Foundation grant funds could be used; the original award letter was rewritten to read *"the new approved purpose is for the City of Augusta's program for historic preservation and the revitalization of the downtown."*
 - The AHPC could write a letter to the Mayor, City Manager, Matt Nazar and the City Council expressing an interest to support this project financially and to work with the City Council through the process. This letter can be reviewed at the December 9th meeting after the Public Hearing.

Meeting Adjourned at 7:36 p.m.

Minutes prepared by Betsy Poulin.