

Meeting Minutes

Augusta Historic Preservation Commission

October 5, 2016

6:30 pm at City Center, Conference Room D

Members Present: Lorie Mastemaker, Dan Stevens, Phyllis von Herrlich, Jan Doerr, Dale McCormick

Members Absent: Jerry Bumford

Others Present: Betsy Poulin-City Staff, Richard Bridges

- Announcements
 - Lorie, Phyllis and Betsy attended the CAMP Conference in Gardiner on September 23rd. Lorie distributed handouts from the meeting about procedures. The conference was a great value, a full day and lots of information was presented.
- Minutes
 - Dan moved that the minutes be accepted as written for the September 7, 2016 meeting
 - Seconded by Jan.
 - Vote: 4:0. Motion passed.

New Business

- Historic Building Plaque - 51 Patterson Street
 - Will be discussed at November meeting
- Wrecking and Demolition Application - 572 Civic Center Drive
 - Richard discussed his research. He did not discover data which meets the significant building criteria.
 - Dan goes through all five criteria of review. All voting members vote in favor of negative findings for each item.
 - Motion by Dan: Based on the information before the Historic Preservation Commission tonight, I make a motion that 572 Civic Center Drive is not a potentially significant building per section 134-5 of the Code of Ordinances. It does not meet any of the criterial listed in Section 134-5(G) of the Code of Ordinances.
 - Seconded by Dale.
 - Vote 4:0. All in favor. Motion passes. Building is not potentially significant.

- Financial Statements Discussion
 - Members reviewed handouts for financial statements.
 - Maine Community Foundation Grant fund has been cleaned out to cover costs for the Downtown National Register District Nomination. Remaining money totaled \$6,849.83. Additional costs to cover the \$14,400 consultant fee are coming from reserve account (\$7,550.17).
 - Assume some money could come from the Commission's reserves possibly for creating the Local Historic District?
 - Commission wants to create a list of projects to reserve some of the reserve money.
 - MITS - add a digital component
 - MITS - new signage

- Historic Building Plaques
 - Richard is incurring costs for research. Has requested \$35/plaque for research fees plus costs of copies, or other fees incurred.
 - Dan makes a motion to pay Richard Bridges \$35/plaque plus costs incurred for research.
 - Seconded by Dale.
 - Vote 5:0. All in favor. Motion passes.
 - Jan wants to know what criteria are used for reviewing the historic building plaques. Would they be granted no matter how many changes have been made to a building?
 - Dan - Sites are eligible too.
 - Dale - Review is not based on the same criteria used for demolition delay review.
 - Dan - The more plaques the better for the City.
 - Jan - The plaque on her house was issued in 1994. One reason she requested the plaque was because it is the oldest unaltered house in the City. This is not noted on the plaque. Some buildings have lots of changes to the interior, should they still be eligible for a plaque?
 - Dan - Only the exterior is considered.
 - Phyllis - Buildings evolve over time, this is a normal process.
 - Dan - Reads the heading on the application form.
 - Lorie - Should there be criteria added to the review process?
 - Betsy - A better database could be created, with snapshot pages. Possible one page per plaque, including the plaque name/date designation, a picture, and brief description of the property. It could be a good way to get the history of the City more visible for the public.
 - Next presentation could be pushed to November to include 19 South Chestnut Street and 51 Patterson Street. Meeting date is November 17th.
- Consider creating an "Honor Award" for work done in the City for protecting / rehabilitating / preserving historic buildings?

Old Business

- MITS
 - No progress.

- Membership Discussion
 - Discussion of potential new members.
 - Dan Wathen? Dan will contact.
 - Jesse Padkus? Phyllis tried contacting, hasn't heard back yet.
 - David Ellis? Dale has contacted and he would be interested in either serving on this Commission or the new Design Review Committee

- Motion to adjourn meeting by Dan
 - Seconded by Phyllis
 - Vote: 4:0. All in favor. Motion passed.

Meeting Adjourned at 7:33.

Next Meeting November 2, 2016 at 6:30pm for a Regularly Scheduled meeting.

Minutes by Betsy Poulin, City Staff.