



Meeting Minutes February 7th, 2022 at 2:00PM

An in-person meeting of The Historic Preservation Commission was held on Tuesday February 7th, 2022 at 2:00pm in the City-County Meeting Room of the Thomaston-Upson Government Complex.

HPC chairwoman, Mrs. Jane Burdette called the meeting to order at 2:00 pm. In attendance were commission members: Jane Burdette, Jamesan Gramme, Luke Haney, Dr. Matt Crawford, Walter Brown, and Brenda Tabb. Commission Members Lila Bryan, Tempy Hoyal, and Claude Burgess had an unexcused absence. City of Thomaston Economic Development Coordinator, Mr. Taylor Smith was also in attendance.

Dr. Crawford motioned to approve the Minutes of the January 4th, 2022 meeting, which was seconded by Mr. Haney. All votes were in favor of approving the meeting minutes. Mr. Brown motioned to adopt the agenda, which was seconded by Dr. Crawford and the motion carried unanimously. Prior to addressing the agenda items, Chairwoman Burdette asked commission members to disclose any conflicts of interest. There were none.

The first item on the agenda was a Certificate of Appropriateness for Ms. Natasha Cromer and her building located at 103 W. Gordon Street (Hair Studio). Ms. Cromer received a COA at the January 2022 meeting in preparation for the HGTV filming. The original approval did not include signage. In order to obtain full compliance, a secondary COA has been requested. Commission members voiced their approval for the facade improvements that were made. Mr. Haney motioned to approve the exterior modifications and signage that was added to the building, which was seconded by Mrs. Tabb. The motion carried unanimously.

The second item on the agenda was a Certificate of Appropriateness for RM Properties & Restorations, LLC and their properties located at 106 & 108 W. Main Street. Mrs. Coggins & Mrs. Avery received a COA at the January 2022 meeting in preparation for the HGTV filming. The original approval did not include signage. In order to obtain full compliance, a secondary COA has been requested. Commission members voiced their approval for the facade improvements that were made. Dr. Crawford motioned to approve the exterior modifications and signage that was added to the building and it was seconded by Mr. Haney. The motion carried unanimously.

The next item up for discussion was a Certificate of Appropriateness for Mr. William Story and his property located at 100 N. Church Street (Studio 100). Mr. Story is in the process of rehabilitating the property for an Art Studio and was seeking Certificate of Appropriateness to come into compliance for an exterior awning that had been added. Mr. Smith informed the Commission that moving forward any other exterior modifications would receive a COA prior to work being completed. Mr. Brown motioned to approve the COA, which was seconded by Mrs. Tabb. The motioned carried unanimously.

The fourth item up for discussion was a Certificate of Appropriateness for Mrs. Charlotte Cromer and the "Community Plaza" at 200 W. Main Street. During the HGTV filming, an art piece designed and built by local metal artist, Mr. Derrick Spivey was created for the space. Sec. 58-81 of the local ordinance requires a Certificate of Appropriateness for any "work of art" in the historic district. Commission members voiced their approval of the new art piece and the enhancement of the plaza. Mr. Haney motioned to approve the COA, which was seconded by Mrs. Gramme. The motion carried unanimously.

The fifth item up for discussion was a Certificate of Appropriateness for Mr. Woody Heath and replacement signage that has been installed on the backside of The Ritz Theatre, located at 114 S. Church Street. Mr. Smith explained to the commission that the previous sign was removed by Colony Bank (Southcrest), when replacing drive-thru tubing. Commission members noted that the sign was designed in good taste and provided movie information to individuals coming in from W. Gordon and W. Main Streets. Mrs. Gramme motioned to approve the COA, which was seconded by Mrs. Tabb. The motion carried unanimously.

The sixth item up for discussion was a Certificate of Appropriateness for Mr. Julian Bethel for signage at his 210 N. Hightower Street property. Mr. Bethel is in the process of leasing spaces for his storage facility. Mr. Bethel informed the commission that once the spaces were leased, the sign would be removed. Mr. Haney posed the question if spaces became available, would the sign be placed back on the fencing. Mr. Bethel explained that it depended on the best method to market the spaces. Dr. Crawford motioned to approve the COA, which was seconded by Mr. Haney. The motion carried unanimously.

The final item up for discussion was revision of the HPC Bylaws. This amendment was needed due to CLG Compliance issues with DCA. The amendment establishes that all HPC Commission members must reside within the municipal limits of Thomaston. Additionally, the Thomaston-Upson Archives Director is fixed as an Ex-Officio member to provide relevant information from a historic context. Dr. Crawford motioned to approve the revision, which was seconded by Mr. Brown. The motion carried unanimously.

In other business, Mr. Smith referenced the bylaws in regards to meeting attendance. Due to undue circumstances, Mrs. Lila Bryan and Mr. Claude Burgess have been unable to attend meetings. Mr. Smith recommended that a letter and Certificate of Appreciation be sent to both members for their time served on the HPC board. Mr. Brown motioned to approve this recommendation, which was seconded by Mrs. Gramme. The motion carried unanimously. Additionally, Mr. Smith informed the board of upcoming projects, including a mural restoration of classic Downtown Thomaston Murals. Mrs. Burdette shared information regarding the Silvertown National Registry district and the process of submitting that application.

Mr. Haney motioned to adjourn the meeting, which was seconded by Dr. Crawford. All commission members stood to show approval, and the meeting was adjourned at 2:44 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mr. Taylor J. Smith

Economic Development Coordinator