



Meeting Minutes May 9th, 2022 at 12:00PM

An in-person meeting of The Historic Preservation Commission was held on Monday May 9th, 2022 at 12:00pm in the City-County Meeting Room of the Thomaston-Upson Government Complex.

HPC chairwoman, Mrs. Jane Burdette called the meeting to order at 12:05 pm. In attendance were commission members: Jane Burdette, Luke Haney, Dr. Matt Crawford, Walter Brown, Jamesan Gramme and Alison Uphold. Commission Members Brenda Tabb and Tempy Hoyal had Excused Absences. City of Thomaston Economic Development Coordinator, Mr. Taylor Smith was also in attendance.

Mr. Brown motioned to approve the Minutes of the April 4th, 2022 meeting, which was seconded by Mr. Haney, and carried unanimously. Mrs. Gramme motioned to adopt the agenda, which was seconded by Mr. Haney, and 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 Mr. John and Mrs. Kiley Haslam and their property at 106/108 N. Church Street. Mr. Haslam was in attendance and explained that he and his wife are in the process of retrofitting the units for an Axe Throwing Bar and Boba Tea Lounge. The Certificate of Appropriateness would cover exterior signage for both new businesses. Discussion was had regarding signage and the utilization of a "Blade Sign" for better visibility to both motorists traveling down Hwy 19 and pedestrians. Additionally, it was recommended that door signage include company logo, open hours, phone #, website, etc. Dr. Crawford motioned to approve the COA contingent upon Mr. Haslam requesting additional concepts from Columbus Signs & Lighting, that utilize the "Blade Signage" and providing those to the commission for review/recommendation, prior to work being completed.

The next item up for discussion was a Certificate of Appropriateness for Kinetic and new signage at their offices at 118 E. Gordon Street. Mark Compton was in attendance to speak on behalf of Kinetic. Board Chair Jane Burdette spoke against the signage that was installed without proper approval and the advertising (High Speed Internet/Phone #) attached to it. Mr. Compton explained that the retail outlet in Thomaston had closed and the Phone # is the only way to get in touch with the retail location located in Moultrie. Mr. Compton explained that Kinetic is assisting with the Fiber expansion and will be adding an additional 6,600 customers with project. Economic Development Coordinator, Taylor Smith suggested that Kinetic work with him on a Facade Grant Application to address several exterior issues including the current signage, which could potentially be moved from the Gordon Street location to Hightower Street (above Cook's Market Parking Lot). Dr. Crawford motioned to deny the Certificate of Appropriateness, which was seconded by Mrs. Uphold, and carried unanimously.

The third item up for discussion was a Certificate of Appropriateness for Mr. Woody Heath and the Ritz Theatre located at 114 S. Church Street. Mr. Heath was unable to attend, as he had a medical appointment at Emory in Atlanta. Mr. Smith spoke on his behalf and explained that Mr. Heath intended to install four (4) black awnings above the windows of the theatre. These awnings would assist with heat entering the facility and provide shade for exterior tables/chairs to be added alongside the opening of The Ritz Cafe and Ice Cream Parlor. Commission members applauded Mr. Heath for the addition of exterior seating. Dr. Crawford motioned to approve the COA, which was seconded by Mr. Haney, and carried unanimously.

In other business, Mrs. Gramme asked about updating the Downtown Design Guidelines, as the current ones are from 1998. She suggested that we reach out to Mr. Kissane who is going to be completing the Historic Resource Survey regarding pricing to budget for 2023. Mr. Smith reminded the board that the new Coke Mural was completed on Slices and two more RC Cola murals would be completed over the summer. Additionally, preliminary conversations have been had with Day Realty and Mr. John Cook regarding a mural on the exterior of Day Realty to commemorate their 79 years of service to the community and being located in both Hotel Upson and the Fincher building over the years. Additional discussion was had regarding historic signage throughout the community, in particular within the Silvertown Historic Registry District (Deluxe Circle, E. Goodrich Ave, East Thomaston, Etc.).

Mrs. Uphold motioned to adjourn the meeting, which was seconded by Mr. Haney. All commission members stood to show approval, and the meeting was adjourned at 1:05PM

Respectfully Submitted,

Mr. Taylor J. Smith

Economic Development Coordinator