



Meeting Minutes October 3rd, 2022 at 2:00PM

An in-person meeting of The Historic Preservation Commission was held on Monday October 3rd, 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 1:58 pm. In attendance were commission members: Jane Burdette, Luke Haney, Walter Brown, Jamesan Gramme, Alison Uphold, Dr. Matt Crawford, and Matt Knight. Commission Member Brenda Tabb had an excused absence due to Doctor appointments. City of Thomaston Economic Development Coordinator, Mr. Taylor Smith and City Manager, Mr. Russell Thompson were also in attendance.

Mr. Haney motioned to table the Minutes of the September 6th, 2022 HPC Meeting, as it was not included in the packet. This motion was seconded by Mrs. Uphold and carried unanimously. Mr. Smith apologized for the error and informed the board that both September and October Meeting Minutes can be approved during the November Meeting. Mr. Brown motioned to adopt the agenda as presented, 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. Drew Story and a new business, Studio 100 opening at 100 N. Church St. in the coming weeks. Mr. Smith delivered a brief introduction to Mr. Story and his new business, as he was unable to attend the meeting. The request included the addition of a 36" Aluminum Circle Blade Sign with under-lighting and matching door decal with contact information. Commission Member Dr. Crawford heralded the blade sign as another classy addition to the N. Church Street Corridor. Commission Member Alison Uphold motioned to approve the application for Certificate of Appropriateness, which was seconded by Mr. Brown. The motion carried unanimously.

The next item on the agenda was continued discussion of the Thomaston Train Depot Signage, as new renderings have been provided by Mr. Dodhia in his Variance application to the Board of Zoning Appeals. This Variance Request is set to be heard on October 12th. The purpose of this conversation was to provide input to the Board of Zoning Appeals regarding the proposed signage, as this property is located within the Downtown Thomaston Historic District. Commission members discussed the conceptals that have been provided to the city by Mr. Dodhia. Discussion was had regarding the necessity of 16 signs for this location. Ultimately, the commission agreed that 5 total signs including the Circle Panel Sign, (2) of the "Thomaston Station" Signs, and (2) of the white Train Depot Bottle Signs. Commission Member Knight motioned to approve the recommendation to be submitted to the Board of Zoning Appeals, that was seconded by Mr. Haney and carried unanimously. Mr. Smith informed the board that he would take the provided conceptals and provide visuals, and a written recommendation to the City Clerk prior to the Board of Zoning Appeals meeting, that could be distributed to their members.

The next item on the agenda was discussion of the Membership Nomination Process. Currently, all Historic Preservation Members are appointed by council. However, under Sec. 58-27 of City of Thomaston Historic Preservation Ordinance requires that "All Members shall be persons who have demonstrated special interest, experience or education in history, architecture or the preservation." Additionally, the Ordinance reads, "To the extent available in the city, at least three members shall be appointed from among professionals in the disciplines of architecture, history, planning, archaeology or related disciplines." With these strict parameters established for servitude on the Historic Preservation Commission, Chairwoman Burdette voiced her support for providing feedback to City Council prior to appointments. Members agreed and also voiced their support for updating the HPC Application Form and providing a cover page that establishes the requirements to serve on the board. Mrs. Uphold motioned to recommend the review of the resume process and update the HPC nomination procedures, which was seconded by Mr. Haney and carried unanimously. Mr. Smith informed the board that he would have an update on this by the November meeting.

The next item up for discussion was the two applications that have been received for the vacant positions. Board members decided that they would wait until Council decided on the updated process before providing feedback on the applications. City Manager Thompson stated that he would inform Council on the HPC decision and allow them to decide on appointing from the two applications that have been received or allow the board to provide feedback. Commission Member Haney motioned to provide no input on this recommendation and allow City Manager Thompson to state the board's decision, which was seconded by Commission Member Knight, and carried unanimously.

In other business, Mr. Smith updated the board on upcoming events: Community Cleanup/ Downtown Kickoff on 10/15 from 8-11am, and Downtown Fall Fest on 10/21 from 4-9pm. Chairwoman Burdette reminded the board to be on the lookout for community structures that should be identified as historic and the upcoming bicentennial in 2025. Commission Member Uphold questioned the addition of window signage at Releaf, without following the proper COA procedures. Mr. Smith informed the board that he would meet with Dakota to discuss the window signage and see if any resolutions could be found by the November Meeting.

Mr. Haney motioned to adjourn the meeting, which was seconded by Mrs. Uphold All commission members stood to show approval, and the meeting was adjourned at 3:05 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mr. Taylor J. Smith

Economic Development Coordinator