

**Meeting Minutes
State College Borough
Historic Resources Commission
July 12, 2016**

The State College Borough Historic Resources Commission (HRC) met on Tuesday, July 12, 2016 in the State College Borough Municipal Building, 243 South Allen Street in Room 242. Chairman Boeldt called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Members Present

Eric Boeldt, Chairman; Susan Bardo, Katsuhiko Muramoto, Gary Patterson and Eric White

Others Present

Anne Messner, Planner/Zoning Officer and Denise Rhoads, Staff Assistant

Approval of Minutes

A motion to approve the April 19, 2016 minutes as amended was made by Dr. White and seconded by Ms. Bardo. The vote was unanimously in favor.

Chair Report

Chairman Boeldt has nothing to report.

Public Hour

No one was in the audience who wished to discuss matters not on the agenda.

Work Program

Historic Architectural Review Board (HARB) Review and Discussion

Chairman Boeldt stated there were monetary reasons, especially, behind the vetoing of this ordinance. He also stated there was a lot of misinformation distributed during meetings back at that time.

Ms. Messner noted there were several letters from residents against this as well.

Commissioners' comments included:

- Dr. White asked about the merging of this Commission and the Design Review Board (DRB) that was discussed at the Council Work Session last evening. He understood someone to say, at that meeting, that by doing so, we would then have a HARB. Ms. Messner stated that was not the case.
- Dr. White also suggested this Commission have rebuttals ready to each of the objections listed in Mayor Welch's letter.

- Chairman Boeldt noted that Council, at their meeting last evening, offered three options: 1) do nothing, 2) merge HRC/DRB groups and 3) appoint some members of each to overlap both commissions.

Ms. Messner noted it does require a change of legislation which presents some challenges.

- Dr. White noted that Council also noted there were issues with not having quorums on a regular basis. And, that Council stated it might be more efficient by merging these boards.
- Dr. White also noted Council stated both boards have a Work Plan that could be merged into one. Ms. Messner stated both boards have their own separate Work Plans.
- Dr. White stated Council noted they were not really interested in the decisions of the HRC because HRC has no real authority.
- Dr. White asked what the timeline is for a decision. Ms. Messner stated staff needed to have something presented to Council by their August 1 or August 15 meetings.
- Dr. White stated he does not feel merging the two commissions just because there might be some quorum issues is necessary. He noted he thought the merging of the two is more of an efficiency issue. He stated it does not seem to be a compelling issue for Council.
- Chairman Boeldt stated he met with Council President, Tom Daubert, Borough Manager, Tom Fontaine, Planning Director Ed LeClear and Anne to discuss this. He noted that Mr. Fontaine stated additional members could be added to both boards.

Ms. Messner asked this Commission, should both boards merge, would this board be willing to move their meeting up to 10 a.m. on the first and third Tuesdays to match the DRB. Some members are not able to accommodate this request.

Ms. Messner asked if there would be any opposition to having a joint meeting with the DRB to discuss this topic. Everyone agreed this would be a good idea.

Ms. Messner stated she would summarize the Commissioners' comments made at this meeting and relay them to Council.

Chairman Boeldt asked Ms. Messner what the next step would be for this draft of the HARB. Ms. Messner stated she would make all the edits and send it to the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission (PHMC) for review and ask them to give feedback based on their experience. She also noted, at a future meeting, that the Commission should decide if they are satisfied with the draft so it could be forwarded to Council.

Dr. White suggested sending this draft down to PHMC right away.

Chairman Boeldt shared some of his edits that Ms. Messner stated she would make for the next draft review.

Chairman Boeldt noted the current guidelines need to be revised. He asked for volunteers. Ms. Messner stated the Word version of the guidelines cannot be found.

Chairman Boeldt stated the Commissioners' should look at several different design guidelines before the next meeting.

Official Reports and Correspondence

Planning Commission (PC): Ms. Messner reported the PC heard a presentation from Roger Dunlap, Assistant Borough Manager regarding the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP). She noted they reviewed the Ag and Engineering Building land development plans as well.

Borough Council (BC): Ms. Messner reported Council met last evening and discussed the HARB and also discussed the Blue Course Drive project and Property Maintenance Code (PMC) items.

Design Review Board (DRB): Ms. Messner reported the DRB will meet next week to discuss the Ag and Engineering Building land development plans and will be discussing the merger between the HRC/DRB.

Ms. Messner also noted the State College Food Bank is in need of donations and gave the particulars of this.

Ms. Messner noted PennDOT is asking if the Commission would be interested in being informed about a project that will be occurring on North Atherton Street on a regular basis. The storm sewer is deteriorating and needs to be replaced. She asked if the Commission is interested in receiving information on this project. The general consensus is they are not interested in being informed.

Adjournment

With no further business to discuss, a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:32 p.m. was made by Ms. Bardo.

Respectfully submitted by:
Denise L. Rhoads, Staff Assistant