Meeting Minutes
State College Borough Design Review Board
August 1, 2016

The State College Borough Design Review Board (DRB) met on Monday, August 1, 2016 in the State College Borough Municipal Building, 243 South Allen Street in Room 241. Chairman Bryant called the meeting to order at 10:21 a.m.

Members present

Richard Bryant, Chairman; Bond Reinhardt, Vice-Chairman and Richard Devon

Others Present:

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

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Mr. Devon and seconded by Mr. Reinhardt to approve the July 19, 2016 minutes as submitted. The vote was unanimously in favor

Chair Report

Chairman Bryant had nothing to report.

Public Hour

No one in the audience wished to discuss items not on the agenda.

Work Program

<u>Consolidation of the Design Review Board (DRB) and the Historic Resources Commission (HRC)</u>

Ms. Messner stated Council is to consider the idea of consolidating the work of the HRC with the DRB. She noted the idea behind this consolidation would be providing a review body that is more consistent with the traditional review process of land development plans and alterations to historic resources in other municipalities.

Ms. Messner noted, during the July 12, 2016 HRC meeting, the Commission reviewed the concept and had the following comments to offer:

- Generally, they stated they are not prepared to make a recommendation to Council without additional thought.
- Suggested not merging the two right now just because there might be some quorum issues. It was thought merging the two is more of an efficiency issue. It was stated it does not seem to be a compelling issue for Council given the other items that need their attention.

- Comments were made regarding the compatibility of merging the two boards when one is focused on historic preservation and the other is design.
- Concern was expressed with how this would impact the development of a HARB.
- 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. So, alternative meeting times might be needed.
- Ms. Messner noted it does require a change of legislation which presents some timing challenges but could be addressed.

The Boards' comments included:

- Mr. Devon noted the HRC is more interested in the preservation of and the DRB is more interested in the future of State College.
- Mr. Devon stated that the HRC is "grabbing" onto the DRB to solve their issues. Mr. Bryant stated he thought it was more about saving money than anything else.
- Mr. Reinhardt asked how many members would be appointed should the two groups merge. Ms. Messner stated it could be five to seven and has not been discussed in length yet.
- Mr. Devon stated these are two different groups that have two different focuses.
- Mr. Reinhardt stated he would be open to having a group meeting with the HRC.
- Mr. Devon stated he is not because he objects to overlapping interests.
- Mr. Devon stated this board has not been given a proposal to review. Ms. Messner stated they will not be given a proposal. She stated Council is just asking for feedback on whether or not both groups should merge.
- Mr. Bryant stated he is fine with the groups merging.

Ms. Messner stated if the Commission looks at what the groups' work plans are, the HRC is heavy on reviewing house plaques and every other year the State of Preservation Report and then, very rarely, they review land development plans and demolition plans.

Ms. Messner also stated the HRC is working on creating a HARB.

It was the general consensus of this board that they could not come up with a recommendation to Council.

Official Reports and Correspondence

Borough Council (BC): Ms. Messner reported Council was supposed to be announcing who our new Police Chief will be.

Planning Commission (PC): Ms. Messner reported the PC will be seeing a land development at their next meeting.

Adjournment

With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 10:40 a.m. by a motion from Mr. Reinhardt and a second from Mr. Devon.

Respectfully submitted by,
Denise L. Rhoads, Staff Assistant