



**Town of Port Deposit
Historic Area Commission
Meeting Minutes
November 18, 2020**

This meeting was held via videoconferencing and by audio. The public was invited to call into the meeting via videoconferencing or audio by phone.

CALL TO ORDER: Chair Harbold called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

PRESENT: Chair Harbold, Vice-Chair Ockuly, Commissioner Barchowsky, Commissioner Brant, Commissioner Wertsch, Council Liaison Deputy Mayor Kuhs, and Town Administrator Rinkerman.

ABSENT: None

MEETING MINUTES APPROVAL:

Minutes from the September 16, 2020 and October 21, 2020 meeting were presented.

Motion was made by Commissioner Brant to approve the minutes from the September 16, 2020 meeting as presented. Seconded by Commissioner Wertsch. All in favor. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Commissioner Wertsch to approve the minutes from the October 21, 2020 meeting as presented. Seconded by Commissioner Brant. All in favor. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS:

File 22-2020 – 41 N. Main Street – Demolition of property due to damages caused by flood in 2011 and left vacant since 2011. Restoration to meet the required floodplain regulations is not economically feasible.

Town Administrator Rinkerman presented the application for demolition of 41 N. Main Street. She informed the Commission of the property's flood damages and vacant status since 2011. Chair Harbold provided a photograph of the stated flood. Town Administrator Rinkerman stated the property has been in tax sale since 2011 with the costs only continuing to increase. Additionally, given the current condition, the cost to have the property meet the floodplain regulations would not be economically feasible.

Town Administrator Rinkerman stated that the property sits next to the Rice Tot Lot which is soon to be a new dog park in Town, and the property could potentially be an addition to the dog park if demolished. She was informed that the granite lintels around the windows may be salvageable.

Council Liaison Deputy Mayor Kuhs expressed that even if the property was potentially restored, a major concern would be the exponential cost of flood insurance and requirements to meet floodplain regulations. He stated he believes the property would never have a buyer due to the money that would need to be invested.

Chair Harbold asked if the granite could become available to town residents for projects if the proposed project is approved by Town Council. Chair Harbold and Vice-Chair Ockuly stated that the amount of money needed to gut and restore the property would be substantially higher than the value of the home once completed.

Motion was made by Commissioner Brant to approve the application for demolition of 41 N. Main Street, with the condition that the granite is salvaged for another purpose in the town if feasible. Seconded by Vice-Chair Ockuly. Motion was amended to include that the granite become available to town residents for private/personal use if the project is presented to and approved by Town Council. All in favor. Motion carried.

Motion made by Vice-Chair Ockuly to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Commissioner Brant. All in favor. Motion carried unanimously.

Historic Area Commission adjourned at 8:00 p.m. The meeting was recorded and the audio is available.

Approved:



Melissa Harbold, Chair