CARROLL COUNTY HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION MINUTES OF TUESDAY MARCH 11TH, 2025

LOCATION: Carroll County Office Building, Room 003 at 7p.m.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Edwin Gregg, Nathan Bell, Ronald Arthur

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT: Kyohei Abe, Jessica Penn, Melvin Brennan

OTHERS PRESENT: Timothy Dixon, Counsel; Mary Lane, Carroll County Bureau of Comprehensive Planning; Caprice Webb, Nora Hardy, Chris Vincent, Chris Hardy, Rachael Anthony, Erik Anthony, Mark Blanchette, Cathrine Blanchette, Sam Weaver, and David Bloom.

- 1. Introduction of those present: The Commission members all introduced themselves.
- 2. Approve the minutes from the February 25, 2025, meeting Mr. Arthur made a motion to approve the minutes, Mr. Bell seconded. The motion passed unanimously.
- 3. Consideration of Application #25-01— The Chair began by reviewing the history of the Uniontown Historic District, which was designated in the 1980s by the Historic Trust and in the 1990s by the Carroll County Board of County Commissioners as an Overlay District. Section 158.095 of the County's Zoning Code provides the authority and rules that are followed, which are also on the HPC's website.

The Chair then introduced the application #25-01 and called for a determination by the members that there was sufficient information to consider the application. Mr. Arthur made a motion, seconded by Mr. Bell that there was sufficient information. The Chair then called on the applicant or representative to come before the Commission to review the application.

Caprice Webb, owner of property at 3367 Uniontown Road, explained that the project has been scaled back due to time constraints. Regarding the porch, the posts shown in the photo will be repainted white. There was discussion regarding using vertical or horizontal railings, and it was agreed that the railings will be changed to meet Building Code requirements. There was concern by a resident in attendance that this would deviate from what was originally on the property, but it was explained that the original railings do not meet Building Code standards and would not be considered safe. If horizontal railings meet code, that is preferable, but a historically accurate alternative in vertical railings is also acceptable. The motion to accept historically appropriate vertical railings, solid wood, for the porch was made by Mr. Bell, seconded by Mr. Gregg, and agreed to unanimously. The siding will simply be repaired and repainted, rather than being replaced. The color will be dark green, but the shutters will be the color sent earlier by the applicant. The front stoop cement will be repaired and covered with brick in the herringbone pattern submitted. A motion was made by Mr. Bell, seconded by Mr. Arthur, and agreed to unanimously, to accept the applicant's proposal.

- 4. The Chair next explained #4 on the Agenda, support for a Preservation Maryland Grant for Historic Uniontown Inc., owner of the old schoolhouse, for plaster work. Preservation Maryland is an organization that is interested in preserving historic buildings throughout the state that are in dire need of repair. The property owner has requested that the HPC support the application. A motion was made by Mr. Bell, seconded by Mr. Arthur to support the application. A letter will be prepared for the Chair's signature.
- 5. Regarding Item #5, the Chair reported that he has been made aware of a porch in historic Uniontown at 3436 Uniontown Road that has been renovated without approval of the HPC. This property had been damaged several months ago and needed to be repaired quickly, probably through insurance. The improvements do not reflect the features of the original porch. A citizen in attendance reported that the replacement posts are not tapered, and with altering the details of homes, the area is losing some of its history. It was agreed that the porch has visual impact and should be reviewed. The Commission members discussed this matter and agreed to send a letter to the property owner requesting that an application be filed. Mr. Bell made the motion, it was seconded by Mr. Arthur and agreed to unanimously. The application will be considered at a future meeting.
- 6. The last item on the agenda was a discussion of windows. The Chairman distributed handout with window standards. Replacement windows are not preferable and change the look of the house. Restoring windows by a professional or replacement sashes that are identical to the originals are two options. Guidelines are provided by the Department of the Interior.
- 7. It was also discussed and agreed to that there needs to be more outreach to the residents of Uniontown regarding the guidelines and obligations for homeowners. A yearly letter to all homeowners was suggested by a resident in attendance. Mr. Dixon will look into this and report back to the Commission. There was also discussion of the possibility of holding a meeting in Uniontown in the spring.

There being no further business and no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:55 p.m. by a motion by Mr. Brennan, seconded by Mr. Arthur and passed unanimously.

The next meeting will be scheduled for April 8, 2025.

Approved by:

design T. Courter Cities

Respectfully submitted:

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