

Athens City Historic and Architecture Preservation Commission  
Minutes  
August 17 2020 5:30 PM

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**1. Call to Order**—Chairwoman Mary Anne Reeves called the meeting to order at 5:30 PM. Members present include Mary Anne Reeves, Pam Callahan, Guy Philips, Richard Vedder, Cyrus Moore, Mark Snider, and John Valentour. Quorum was established. Paul Logue recorded minutes.

**2. Disposition of Minutes**—The minutes from July 20, 2020 were reviewed by the commission. Mr. Philips motioned to approve the minutes as submitted by Mr. Logue. Mr. Moore seconded the motion. All members voted in favor of the motion. The motion was approved.

**3. Next Meeting**—September 14, 2020

**4. Old Business**

A. District expansion—Mr. Valentour reported that he and Logue met with the city code office. The code office will be putting together draft application document applicants to submit for a preservation review. Valentour recommended that the uptown district be recommended to Council. The board discussed focusing on the national registry district in order to move forward and then discuss an expanded district at a later date. Ms. Callahan made a motion to recommend that Athens City Council designate the Uptown National Register of Historic Places District as a locally designated district. Dr. Vedder seconded the motion. All members voted in favor. The motion was approved. Logue will help with a memo for council. He also has copies of the maps that Valentour made and will send them out.

**5. New Business**

A. Membership—chair and vice-chair appointments need to be made. Ms. Reeves is currently VC. Callahan made a motion to appoint Reeves as chair and Valentour as vice-chair. Moore seconded the motion. All members voted in favor of the motion. The motion was approved.

B. Seaman's Grocery local designation—Logue I discussed the downtown redevelopment district process in Ohio Revised Code and the potential worthiness of the project and the potential for Seaman's Grocery to be a local designated historic building. Vedder asked about Logue's relationship with J. Seaman. He reported that they lived in the same dorm as freshmen at OU in 1993-4 and were friends. Mayor Patterson, Logue, and the Athens County Economic Development Council approached the Seaman family regarding the DRD. The Seaman family supports the historic designation. Logue showed the potential DRD district map. Logue discussed the criteria in code being met here including ACC 45. 11 (E), (G), and (I). Reeves supported this. Valentour's opinion is that the building is significant. Vedder asked about Logue's relationship with J. Seaman. He reported that they lived in the same dorm as freshmen at OU in 1993-4 and were friends. Vedder made a motion to recommend a local designation

for Seaman's Grocery. Mr. Philips seconded the motion. All members voted in favor of the motion. The motion was approved by the board.

#### **6. Announcements and Updates**

Pam asked to discuss Bingham House. David Callahan is architect of record for the relocation of the cabin. Pam reported that he visited the building and was comfortable with the work that was done. Cyrus reported that there was concern about building materials that were used in the repairs. Cyrus thinks this is an issue of restoration versus preservation and OU is restoring. The commission will research the current national registry status of the Bingham House.

#### **7. Adjournment**

Philips moved to adjourn at 6:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Paul Logue.