

CITY OF DARLINGTON
HISTORIC LANDMARK COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES

The City of Darlington Historic Landmark Commission met on **February 3, 2020**, at City Hall, 400 Pearl St. Attending were commission members, Ms. Pierson, Ms. Brasington, Mr. Chace, and Ms. Howle, as well as staff members, Mr. Gainey and Ms. Rock. Guests included Mr. & Mrs. Pruitt, Mr. & Mrs. Bridgers, Mr. Andrew Barber, and Mrs. Betty Privette.

Ms. Pierson called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

Ms. Brasington made a motion to accept the minutes from the **August 5, 2019**, meeting. Mr. Chace made the second. The motion carried unanimously.

Case 11/12/2019 Property of Joy Goodsell & Mark Pullen, 125 Park Street: Ms. Rock presented the application for a certificate of appropriateness in the owners' absence. The owners need to replace a rotten front door and included photos of both the old and proposed door. The Board thought it was an improvement. Ms. Howle made a motion to approve the application as presented. Ms. Brasington made the second. The motion carried unanimously.

Case 02/01/2019 Property of Robert L. and Susan B. Bridgers: Review of Work as Approved, Specifically Exterior Paint Color: Ms. Pierson said she had received comments about the color of the Bridgers' new home at 267 W. Broad St. and thought a meeting to discuss the issue was necessary to put the issue to bed. Mrs. Bridgers said they were contacted October 10 and provided the requested information to the Codes Enforcement Department, and they were told there was no problem with the new color choice. Mrs. Bridgers said she didn't want to start off on the wrong foot because they love the neighborhood. Mrs. Privette said she owns the house next door and was proud to have them as neighbors. Mr. Bridgers said the original application included a beige exterior color, but with so many yellow and beige houses nearby, they decided to repaint it a different color. Mr. Abbott, who lives on the same street, said he had not heard any negative comments only that the house brings color to the neighborhood. Mr. Pruitt said he understands it is your house, but he doesn't like the color. Mrs. Pruitt asked if the color was in fact a historic color or not. Ms. Rock said she and Ms. Jones in the Codes department found a similar color on a historic color palette, which prompted the initial ok. Ms. Rock then contacted the manufacturer once the exact number was presented. When she called, the store told her it was historic. Then she received an email from the manufacturer that indicated otherwise. By then, it was already painted. Mr. Bridgers said to blame Lowe's, which is where they purchased it. Mrs. Pruitt said that based on the ordinance new construction needs to be consistent with the neighborhood. Mrs. Pruitt said that if we are all to be held to a certain standard in renovations and repairs we all need to be held to the same standard. Mr. Chace said that, if that's the case, his house would need to be repainted because it isn't a historic color, just one he mixed himself. Mr. Chace added that half of the houses on that street would need to be repainted. Mrs. Pruitt said that was 14 years ago and we can't change that. Mr. Pruitt said he previously asked the committee for things such as composite decking but was told no, but he saw others installing it with permission. He said it's wrong. Ms. Pierson said that the federal standards do allow some differences, and of course some do the work on weekends and nights. Mr. Pruitt said that Lisa and Alex need help, so things like this don't fall through the cracks. Ms. Pierson said we have an issue with precedence. Ms. Pierson said, once a mistake has been made, it's very expensive to do something different, especially on a non-contributing house in the district. Mr. Gainey said he discussed the color choice with Mr. Chace, who expressed no concern. Then, he said in December, Shermin Williams indicated the color was not historic based on the exact number. Ms.

Brasington said they did their due diligence and were doing what they were supposed to do. Mr. Gainey said it should have gone to the committee rather than one member. Mrs. Bridgers said she did not take Mr. Chace's opinion to be that of the entire commission. She said that we went on good faith that it was right. Mr. Pruitt said I don't want you to have the expense of repainting the house. Mrs. Pruitt said that going forward we need to make sure it doesn't happen again. Mrs. Pruitt said the commission was supposed to alleviate some of the work on them (staff). Mrs. Pruitt said her concern was that as they remodel the house across the street they want the standards to be the same for us. Mr. Chace said he agrees 100 percent. Mr. Chace said if we are going to stop this, let's draw the line right now, but I don't think we should make them repaint their house. Ms. Pierson said people make mistakes, but what's important is that we take care of these houses. Ms. Brasington said we need to do better in the future. Mr. Bridgers said they have lived in Darlington for 35 years, then moved to the beach, but the HOAs were so restrictive you couldn't even have things in the yard. Mr. Bridgers apologized for causing a disturbance. Mrs. Bridgers said we have all had our say, and I feel it will be done consistently in the future. She said they will be bringing a fence design to the board before it is installed. Mr. Pruitt said the street is beginning to look like a rainbow. Ms. Brasington noted how wonderful Charleston's Rainbow Row looks. Mr. Pruitt said that we need leniency just not playing favorites. Mrs. Pruitt said that Ms. Rock said that, if a material would have been historically available, it should be appropriate for a house of that period. Mr. Pruitt said he originally wanted to do metal on the turret of their house but might try cedar shakes from Canada. Ms. Brasington made a motion that the commission follow the ordinance and standards and offer an alternative or the appeals process with any denials. Ms. Pierson made the second. The motion carried unanimously.

Old Business: Ms. Rock said the Bailey Bill passed the County, Darlington City Council, and Hartsville City Council. It must pass all taxing entities in the County to be used however, and Lamar Town Council, Society Hill Town Council, and the School District have yet to take up the measure. She suggested educating folks in those areas about the benefit of the bill, which would freeze property taxes for a certain period of time on properly renovated historic properties. Mrs. Pruitt asked if there were economic impact figures regarding this. Ms. Rock said she had found a study of the economic impact of reviving and sustaining historic properties that she would send to the commission, the Pruitts, and the members of the Lamar Town Council, Society Hill Town Council, and the School District Board.

The meeting adjourned at 6:48 p.m.