

CITY OF DARLINGTON
HISTORIC LANDMARK COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES

The City of Darlington Historic Landmark Commission met on **May 3, 2021**, at City Hall, 400 Pearl St. Attending were commission members, Ms. Pierson, Ms. Brasington, Ms. Pruitt, Mr. Chace, and Ms. Howle, as well as staff members, Ms. Rock and Ms. Jones.

Ms. Pierson called the meeting to order at 5:32 p.m.

Minutes: Ms. Pruitt made a motion to accept the minutes from the **February 1, 2021**, meeting. Ms. Brasington made the second. The motion carried unanimously.

Item # 1 (Case 01/2021) Property of Ronald & Mable Pratt, located at 255 W. Broad St., Tax Map No. 165-02-03-070: Ms. Jones presented the owners' request to install vinyl fence down the driveway and for the rear of the yard to replace dilapidated chain link as well as to install a covered wooden porch to the back of the house. Ms. Brasington made a motion to approve both as presented since both items were not in the front yard. Mr. Chace made the second. The motion carried unanimously. Ms. Pruitt asked if the board was ok with vinyl fencing on historic properties. The Commission discussed location (stating the back was fine), the expense and availability of wood, the cost of lumber increasing 300% since January, and the proliferation of vinyl fencing throughout the district. The Commission said it is not in favor of solid vinyl in the front but may be agreeable to white vinyl picket fencing in front.

Historic Grant Update: Ms. Rock said the City has applied for two federal grants, the Underrepresented Communities Grant to move forward on the Darlington Memorial Cemetery Masterplan and the Federal Historic Preservation Grant to survey the southeast side of Darlington for culturally and architecturally significant structures. Grant award information will be made during the summer.

Ms. Rock also said the application period for the Paul Bruhn Historic Revitalization Grants Program has opened and will close on May 12. She suggested using the Commission's idea to create a fund for replacement roofs on historic homes as the project for the grant. The amount can be \$100,000 to \$750,000. The Commission discussed the details and decided the following:

- Homes should be owner-occupied, not rental property, or with a commitment for a family member to live in the house.
- Properties must be in a historic district or listed on the National Register to qualify.
- Contributing properties shall have preference over noncontributing properties.
- Income should be considered, with those having means putting in a 10% match to allow for more homes to be repaired.
- Deed restrictions so properties could not be demolished should be considered.
- Prioritize the grantees by age of the home.
- Commission members will assist individuals with application.
- The Commission will serve as the screening committee.
- There will be no limit to the amount spent on any one property. Some may be \$6,000 and others \$20,000, depending on the size of the roof needed.

New Business: Ms. Rock informed members about several webinar opportunities for training and will email registration links.

Mr. Chace resigned from the Commission. The meeting adjourned at 6:18 p.m.