



## Meeting Minutes April 3rd, 2023 at 2:00PM

An in-person meeting of the Thomaston Historic Preservation Commission was held on Monday, April 3rd, 2023 at 2:00pm on the 2nd floor of the Thomaston-Upson Senior Center.

HPC chairman, Mr. Luke Haney called the meeting to order at 2:00 pm. In attendance were commission members: Luke Haney, Walter Brown, Allison Uphold, Jane Burdette, Jackson Reddick, Dr. Barbara Worthy, and Brenda Tabb. Commission Member, Dr. Matt Crawford was absent due to work. Commission Member Matt Knight was tardy. Ex Officio Member, Mrs. Jamesan Gramme was in attendance, as well as City of Thomaston Economic Development Coordinator, Mr. Taylor Smith.

Mrs. Uphold motioned to approve the Minutes of the March 6th, 2023 HPC Meeting, which was seconded by Mr. Reddick and carried unanimously. Mr. Brown motioned to adopt the Agenda, which was seconded by Dr. Worthy and carried unanimously. Prior to addressing the agenda items, Chairman Haney asked commission members to disclose any conflicts of interest. There were none.

The first item on the agenda was a Certificate of Appropriateness for Mr. Glenn Watson and the former WUTV Building at 110 N. Church Street. Mr. Watson, his wife, Sandy, and one of the property owners, Mrs. Rachel Ash (Salter), were on hand for the meeting. Mr. Watson introduced his business "Red Dirt Vagabond" and the corresponding signage developed by Columbus Signs and Lighting that he was looking to install. This addition, along with removing the existing satellite dish and sign bracket, painting the door/window trim, and installing vinyl lettering to the window were proposed. Mr. Watson received support for the alterations from several commission members. Mr. Reddick motioned to approve the COA, which was seconded by Dr. Worthy, and carried unanimously.

The next item on the agenda was continued discussion of Local Historic Designation. Chairman Haney compiled a list of properties to share with the commission and grading criteria began to be discussed. Mr. Knight provided an update on the First Baptist "Clinic" building set to be demolished. The church cited extreme costs associated with the rehabilitation of the structure, including over \$30k in electrical costs for the rewiring of three rooms. Financial expenses and liability concerns contributed to the demolition decision. Two additional properties, 308 S. Green Street and the Harp House were mentioned as potential historic designation targets. Mr. Haney suggested that a grading criteria be developed by a group of the commission members and asked if there were any interested parties. Commission Members Burdette, Knight, Tabb, and Uphold, agreed to participate in this "Local Designation Committee".

Finally, commission members were updated on the ongoing UGA Facade Grant Project. During the weekend of 3/25-3/26 several UGA Historic Preservation Graduate students, along with Professor Jennifer Lewis, Director, CED Center for Community Design and Preservation visited Thomaston. These students met one-on-one with several property owners within the DDA district to discuss

potential facade modifications. Over the course of April, these students will finalize conceptals that can be used during the Facade Grant Application process. The goal is to have finalized conceptals ready for the May HPC Meeting.

In other business, Mr. Smith provided several updates. First, commission members were informed of the UGA Student Job board. This job board provides opportunities for students enrolled in the UGA College of Environment & Design to gain first-hand experience. This can be an option for future facade grant conceptals. Secondly, information regarding the National Alliance of Preservation Commissions was shared. For \$100 annually, the Thomaston Historic Preservation Commission can be registered, along with all of the commission members. Educational webinars and training opportunities are provided at no cost to members. Mr. Smith said that he would be enrolling the group. Finally, information was shared regarding the History of Equal Rights (HER) Grant program. An update from DCA on the Historic Resource Survey update was requested. Mr. Smith said that he would follow up with Mr. Kissane (to finalize map), and Paige Jennings with DCA to finalize the start date.

Mr. Knight motioned to adjourn the meeting, which was seconded by Mrs. Uphold. All Commission members stood to show approval and the meeting was adjourned at 2:45PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Taylor J. Smith  
City of Thomaston  
Economic Development Coordinator