

**Minutes of the East Orleans Main Street Historic District Study Committee  
Wednesday, August 23, 2023 at 4:00 pm**

Attendees: Ron Petersen, Joan Nix, Charles Ellis, Edmund Marcarelli, Bill Wibel and Francis Mustaro. Eric Dray by Zoom.

Joan Nix (JN) moved that the 8/2 minutes (with minor revisions) be accepted, and that was seconded by Ron Petersen (RP) and passed 6-0-0.

JN stated that we should move forward with a press release and also queried what our list of regulated items ought to be e.g. colors, siding. RP stated that our goal should be to be as "bare bones" as possible as to regulation. Bill Wibel (WB) asked whether we should incorporate language regarding the composition of the ongoing committee.

Eric Dray (ED) joined the meeting at 4:09 PM via Zoom. He emphasized that from the beginning, we have made clear that this will be a non-restrictive historic district.

JN opened a discussion of how best to characterize and communicate the benefits of the Historic District through the press release. Some discussion ensued concerning the initial press release draft, and ED expressed concern that this initial communication contain too much detail.

ED suggested that a simple message should be conveyed – The historic street scape and special character of the proposed district are important to Orleans, and we want to protect it.

JN opened the discussion of the letter to property owners, and she suggested that the initial letter should have the same initial paragraphs as the press release leaving the questionnaire to a subsequent letter. Follow up correspondence with a questionnaire and FAQ's (from ED) should go out about two weeks later.

The Committee discussed the merits of a digital correspondence and questionnaire. ED asked whether we could limit responses only to owners in the district. Could a digital survey be misused?

JN asked if the Barley Neck Inn should be included in the proposed Historic District. WB asked why Cove Rd. was not included in the proposed District. RP commented that among objections to the previous Historic District effort was the perceived piecemeal nature of the District layout.

ED confirmed that 224 Main and 2 Beach were not surveyed by Eric and have not updated Form B. The committee agreed that they should be included in the proposed Historic District map.

Regarding the early correspondence, ED suggested that the map not be included in the mailings, as the current map of the proposed District layout is a working document.

ED will compose an initial letter for the Committee to review at the next meeting, and it will be based upon the Marion letter.

Postage expenses were discussed, and JN commented that a very small sum (about \$1,000) for all 47 committees. The town manager has not replied with answers regarding the use of the Historical Commission budget for the OHDSC spending needs.

JN and ED offered to collaborate on the first letter and submit it for mailing.

The next meeting of the OHDSC will be September 13 at 4:00.

RP moved that the meeting adjourn, FM seconded, and it was passed 6-0-0. The meeting adjourned at 6:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Francis L. Mustaro