

Highland

Neighborhood
Association



Meeting assembled at Columbia Street on August 12, 2021, at 7:00 pm

Chairman Christian Kelly opened the meeting with a welcome to Salem Ken Eatwell, Salem's administering Senior Building Inspector for the Building and Safety Division Community Development Department. Ken explained the regular procedures for reporting problems with homeless people on private property, or questions about whether permitting on building projects are necessary.

Three dwelling units or more, restaurants and businesses all qualify as commercial property and almost always require a permit. (Except for paint, or carpet.)

Residential permits vary, but Ken Eatwell is available as a resource each day until 3:00 pm for questions from us about their projects. For example, up to 15% of decking or roofing may be repaired in a residential property without permits, or windows may be replaced using the same original size opening providing the properly rated insulation is used (see codes). Ken stressed that the codes are intended to keep people safe. A detached tool shed, 10 feet by 20 feet may also be built and (with the proper height) without requiring a building permit. (Still need to meet zoning requirements). Good idea to check with the City Planning Department. Sheet rock may be replaced that are not affected by the energy codes. Ken also works with Compliance Services.

Neighborhood speed bumps must be researched for traffic use and installed by the City of Salem. Any privately installed curbs, or plastic "bumps" in city right of ways will be removed.

Several motions were made and seconded:

To plan an apple press/cider party for the neighborhood

To reimburse Chairman Christian Kelly for the NNO

To establish a Heritage Committee, chaired by Leigha Tracy-Gaynair, and pursue the Heritage designation for Highland Neighborhood.

To provide a ZOOM option for all our meetings.

* All questions are now addressed electronically by the City of Salem's PAC portal. Assistance is available for submitting documents by calling the planning office. Per Ken Eatwell, 503-588-6256.

The non-emergency police number is a good option for being connected to police about homeless problems at 503-588-6123. General concerns were discussed relative to homelessness.

Becoming a heritage neighborhood has been suggested as a "point of departure" for enhancing the Highland neighborhood. A general feeling in the meeting is that Highland area has unique aesthetic qualities that are under appreciated, and that neighborhood events (such as prizes for the best Halloween decorations), our community garden, street trees and attention to details. The heritage designation may also qualify Highland for project grants.