

The Minutes of the City of Ocean Springs
Historic Preservation Commission
Thursday, May 14, 2026

1. Call meeting to order

Commissioner Charles Fowler called the meeting to order on Thursday, May 14, 2026, at 6:00 p.m. Commission members present were Susan Wooten, Kathy Stafford, and Robert Brown. Absent, Bonnie Munro, Owen White, and Karen Chewning. Also, present were Amanda Crose - Planning Director and Rae Williams – Planning Office Administrator.

2. Approval of Minutes

- a. April 16, 2026

A motion was made by Susan Wooten, seconded by Kathy Stafford to approve the April 16, 2026, meeting minutes as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

3. Old Business

- a. None

4. New Business

- a. **110A Shearwater - PIDN: 60130590.072 - Owen White - Request for a Certificate of Appropriateness (COA) to construct an 18' diameter, round sitting area with gravel, grey pave stones, and grey stone border as shown in the site plan along with a 4' x 24' pathway leading to existing driveway**

Due to the absence of the applicant, discussion was held regarding postponing Item 4(a) until later in the meeting to allow an opportunity for his arrival.

A motion was made by Susan Wooten, seconded by Charles Fowler, to move Item 4(a) to the end of the meeting. The motion carried unanimously.

- b. **915 & 921 Ocean Ave – PIDN: 60137400.100, 60137450.060, & 60137394.000 - First Presbyterian Church of Ocean Springs – Requesting approval of a Certificate of Appropriateness (COA) to construct a 4' tall white vinyl picket fence on 3 sides of an existing sport court.**

The applicant, Greg Worch, was present to answer questions from the Commissioners. Mr. Worch explained the request was for a white vinyl fence surrounding the sport court and noted the proposed fence was similar to another vinyl fence previously approved by the Commission. He stated the fence would surround the front and side portions of the court and would match the existing fencing material, apart from a flat top design instead of a waved top profile.

Commissioners discussed the location of the fence and compatibility with the existing fencing on the property. Commissioner Susan Wooten confirmed the fence would match the existing material and appearance.

A motion was made by Kathy Stafford, seconded by Susan Wooten, to recommend approval of a Certificate of Appropriateness (COA) to construct a 4' tall white vinyl picket fence on three sides of the existing sport court as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

- c. 1217 Sunset Ave - PIDN: 60119030.110 - Jeremy & Melissa Holland - Request for a Certificate of Appropriateness (COA) to install a Gunite swimming pool with hot tub, 6' wide concrete walkway connecting the pool with the existing pier, fire pit in the backyard with landscaping, trim 3 trees in the front yard, remove one tree on the side of the property, and widen the existing driveway 8' the length of the driveway using concrete to match existing.**

The applicant, Jeremy Holland was present to represent the request and answer questions from the commissioners.

Discussion focused primarily on the proposed removal of the side yard tree located close to the residence.

Mr. Holland explained the tree limbs extended over the home and the tree was surrounded by concrete, limiting future growth and creating concerns regarding the home's foundation. He further stated the tree was positioned so closely to the residence that you could not walk between the tree and the home.

Commissioner Fowler asked whether the tree could potentially compromise plumbing or concrete around the home. Mr. Holland stated he believed the tree would continue impacting the concrete and foundation area.

Commissioner Wooten asked whether the driveway expansion and walkway would be concrete. Mr. Holland confirmed both improvements would match the existing concrete. Mr. Holland also inquired whether trimming the tree would be permitted if full removal was not approved.

The Planning Director explained that tree permits, and review authority fall under the Building Department and Building Official review process.

A motion was made by Kathy Stafford, seconded by Susan Wooten, to recommend approval of a Certificate of Appropriateness (COA) to install a Gunite swimming pool with hot tub, 6' wide concrete walkway connecting the pool with the existing pier, fire pit with landscaping, trim three trees in the front yard, remove one tree on the side of the property, subject to Building Department review and approval, as well as, widen the existing driveway eight feet the length of the driveway using concrete to match the existing driveway. The motion carried unanimously.

- a. **110A Shearwater - PIDN: 60130590.072 - Owen White - Request for a Certificate of Appropriateness (COA) to construct an 18' diameter, round sitting area with gravel, grey pave stones, and grey stone border as shown in the site plan along with a 4' x 24' pathway leading to existing driveway**

Following completion of the remaining agenda items, Commissioner Fowler returned to Item 4(a) and confirmed there was not a representative in the audience for Item 4 (a).

Commissioner Fowler discussed concerns regarding the proposed location of the sitting area and referenced the Historic Preservation guidelines regarding modern recreational and mechanical features. He noted the guidelines state such features should generally not be visible from the public view or placed within the front yard unless appropriately screened. Chairman Fowler stated that his concern was the potential precedent the request could establish if approved without additional clarification regarding visibility and screening.

The Planning Director advised the Commission that additional clarification from the applicant regarding the surrounding area and visibility of the proposed feature may be beneficial.

Commissioner Wooten agreed the Commission should remain consistent in applying the guidelines and noted additional landscaping or screening could potentially address concerns.

Commissioner Fowler stated he believed it would be appropriate to table the item until the applicant could be present to answer questions and address the Commission's concerns.

A motion was made by Susan Wooten, seconded by Kathy Stafford to table the request for a Certificate of Appropriateness (COA) for 110A Shearwater until the next Historic Preservation Commission meeting. The motion carried unanimously.

5. Audience Request

- a. None

6. Administrative

- a. None

7. Adjourn

A motion was made by Kathy Stafford, seconded by Susan Wooten, to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried unanimously.

The meeting ended at 6:11 p.m.