

HISTORIC PRESERVATION REVIEW COMMISSION
232 N. Queen Street
August 7, 2017
Regular Meeting, 7:00 PM.
J. Oakley Seibert Council Chambers

With a quorum present, Vice-Chairman Steve Knipe called the regular scheduled meeting of the Historic Preservation Review Commission to order at 7:19 pm. The following members were present: Steve Knipe, Ryan Perks, Brance McCune, John Stillwagon and Chris Cox. Absent was: Gary Gimbel, Mark Jordan and Terry Colburn. Also in attendance were Planning Director/City Engineer Kim Petrucci, City Planner Tracy Sherman and Planning Secretary Holly Hartman.

APPROVAL OF July 10, 2017 MEETING MINUTES

Commissioner Cox made the motion to approve the July meeting minutes as presented. Commissioner Perks seconded the motion, which was followed by a unanimous vote of “aye”. Motion carried.

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

Read by Vice-Chairman Knipe. Zoning Ordinance Article 10

I. UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None

II. NEW BUSINESS:

- 1. CASE #HP 17-00003. 127 E. King Street. Public Hearing.** Application requesting a Certificate of Appropriateness to install business signs. Devin Walker, applicant.

Devin Walker provided an explanation of the project stating that he would like to replace the current building signs. The awning on the King Street side of the building will remain in place, but the sign company will attach a new sign over the old business name.

Vice-Chairman Knipe opened the public hearing at 7:23 pm. As no one came forward to speak for or against this request, the public hearing was closed at 7:23 pm.

Vice-Chairman Knipe asked that the sign be installed with the appropriate hardware to protect the building from water damage.

Commissioner Stillwagon made the motion to approve the request as submitted. Commissioner Perks seconded the motion that was followed by a unanimous vote of “aye”. Motion approved.

- 2. CASE #HP 17-00004. 142 N. Queen Street. Public Hearing.** Application requesting a Certificate of Appropriateness to replace gutters and doors. Trinity Episcopal Church, applicant.

Jason Stedman provided an explanation of the project stating that the church would like to replace the deteriorating copper gutters with aluminum gutters. The color of the replacement gutter is still undecided. Mr. Stedman explained that the doors need to be replaced as well due to deterioration and an attempted break-in.

Vice-Chairman Knipe opened the public hearing at 7:26 pm. As no one came forward to speak for or against this request, the public hearing was closed at 7:26 pm.

Commissioner Cox asked if the application could be approved without knowing the specific color of the gutters. City Planner Tracy Sherman replied that in the past the board has approved both potential colors and allowed the applicant to decide between the two.

Commissioner Stillwagon made the motion to approve the request with the approval of two colors, grey or green, for the gutters. Commissioner Perks seconded the motion that was followed by a unanimous vote of “aye”. Motion approved.

- 3. CASE #HP 17-00006. 116 N. Queen Street. Public Hearing.** Application requesting a Certificate of Appropriateness to install and overhanging business sign. Berkeley Arts Council, applicant.

Melinda Shaver, president of the Berkeley Arts Council, provided an explanation of the project stating that the overhanging sign was designed by the artists.

Vice-Chairman Knipe opened the public hearing at 7:30 pm.

- Randy Lewis, Main Street Martinsburg, spoke against the request. Mr. Lewis feels that with this being the first overhanging sign, it sets a precedent, and he would like it to be collaborated with all of the downtown businesses. Mr. Lewis suggested that the sign be looked at more closely and see if there are other possible designs. Mr. Lewis suggested collaborating with the state coordinator, Mike Gioulis from Main Street West Virginia. He will give recommendations on how the sign will look and fit with the building. Mr. Lewis advised that this is a free service offered by the state. Commissioner Cox asked if Mr. Lewis had approached the business about his concerns prior to the meeting. Mr. Lewis advised that he had not. Mr. Lewis stated that he had no issue with the overhanging sign itself or the arm, only the design of the proposed sign and if it will mesh with the building.

Ms. Shaver advised that she has spoken with various people and businesses and there has never been a mention of a consultant to assist with the design of the sign. The current design was chosen by the board at the Berkeley Arts Council. Ms. Sherman asked if the applicant would like to continue with the request or table it until next month to work with the consultant. Vice-Chairman Knipe suggested she take a moment to think it over while the next person spoke during the public hearing.

- Barbara Bratina spoke against the request. She feels the design of the sign is not up to par with the quality of the artwork being sold and that it is not harmonious with historic downtown Martinsburg.

As no one else came forward to speak for or against this request, the public hearing was closed at 7:44 pm.

Ms. Shaver requested that the commission table the request until the next meeting allowing time to discuss the new information with the board of directors.

Commissioner Cox made the motion to table the request until the next meeting. Commissioner Stillwagon seconded the motion that was followed by a unanimous vote of "aye". Motion approved.

III. OTHER BUSINESS: None

IV. DISCUSSION ITEMS: None

V. ACTION ITEMS: None

VI. ADJOURNMENT:

Commissioner Cox made the motion to adjourn. Commissioner Perks seconded the motion that was followed by a unanimous vote of "aye". The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 pm.

Gary Gimbel, Chairperson

Holly Hartman, Secretary