

The following minutes are from the Historic Commission meeting on Tuesday, August 11, 2020 in the Abita Springs Town Hall. The meeting convened at 6:00 p.m.

Commissioner Blitch called the meeting to order and all stood for the Pledge of Allegiance. Commissioners in attendance included Ron Blitch, Thad Mancil, Otto Dinkelacker, and Andre Monnot. Commissioner Blitch introduced new Commissioner Paul Vogt. Kristin Tortorich and Mark Fancey were also present.

Andre Monnot motioned to amend the agenda to include discussion of a portable canopy in the front yard at 22367 Main Street. Commissioner Dinkelacker seconded the motion. All commissioners were in favor.

The Commission reviewed the draft minutes from the July 14, 2020 meeting. Commissioner Dinkelacker motioned to accept the minutes of the July 14, 2020 meeting. Commissioner Monnot seconded the motion. All commissioners were in favor.

Certificate of Appropriateness 71124 Minkler Street

The request is to approve a previously constructed 8' high solid metal fence in the rear yard. The applicant stated that the fence would be 7'9" above the finished grade. The applicant offered to install 2-foot high lattice over the existing metal fence. Discussion ensued regarding various options. To bring the fence into compliance the top 9" of the fence would need to be removed. The Commission discussed a hardship variance to allow the fence. Commissioner Blitch stated that granting a variance would not establish a precedent for future fences. Commissioner Monnot suggested the applicant obtain letters of support from neighbors. Commissioner Blitch recommended contacting neighbors within 150 feet of the property.

Commissioner Monnot motioned to approve the request for the 7'9" high solid fence, subject to submittal of letters of support from neighboring residents. Commissioner Dinkelacker seconded the motion. All commissioners were in favor.

Certificate of Appropriateness Abita Springs Cafe

The request is to construct a fence around outdoor seating areas. The fence would match the existing white fence on the property. Commissioner Monnot motioned to approve the request. Commissioner Mancil seconded the motion. All commissioners were in favor.

Certificate of Appropriateness Palmer Circle – Lot 2

The request is to construct a detached garage. The Commission had previously approved a house on the property. Commissioner Dinkelacker motioned to approve the request. Commissioner Mancil seconded the motion. All commissioners were in favor.

Certificate of Appropriateness Walker Circle – Lot 2

The request is to construct a detached garage. The Commission had previously approved a house on the property. Commissioner Vogt motioned to approve the request. Commissioner Dinkelacker seconded the motion. All commissioners were in favor.

Certificate of Appropriateness 22139 Level Street

The request is to rebuild the steps of Trinity Lutheran Church which were damaged by a car. The steps have been re-poured incorrectly without a landing and the applicant wants to remove the steps and reconstruct to the original design. Commissioner Dinkelacker motioned to approve the request to construct the steps as originally designed and approve addition of a railing. Commissioner Mancil seconded the motion. All commissioners were in favor.

Certificate of Appropriateness 72014 Hickory Street

The Commission reviewed proposed paint colors for a residence. The colors meet the Design Review Guideline requirements. Commissioner Dinkelacker motioned to approve the request. Commissioner Mancil seconded the motion. All commissioners were in favor.

DISCUSSION

The Commission discussed a portable canopy located in the front yard of a property at 22367 Main Street. The property owner stated that the canopy would only be there temporarily as a new storage building will be constructed on the property. Commissioner Dinkelacker motioned to defer action on the canopy for 30 days so that the owner can submit plans for a storage building for review at the Commission’s September meeting. Commissioner Mancil seconded the motion. All commissioners were in favor.

Information was presented for discussion regarding a proposed demolition at 72200 Magnolia Street. The structure is vacant and in serious disrepair. The building is not designated as a historic resource. The Commission referred the item to staff for permits and review.

Commissioner Blich motioned to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Dinkelacker seconded the motion. All commissioners were in favor. The meeting adjourned at 6:57 p.m.

Kristin M. Tortorich, Planning and Zoning

Date