

The following minutes are from the Historic Commission meeting on Tuesday, February 9, 2021 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 Thad Mancil, Ron Blitch, Paul Vogt, Andre Monnot, and Otto Dinkelacker. Kristin Tortorich and Mark Fancey were also present.

The Commission reviewed the draft minutes from the December 8, 2020 meeting. Commissioner Blitch stated that adding battens to HardiePlank siding does not simulate board and batten siding as stated in the minutes.

The Commission noted that all three applications reviewed in December were approved subject to submission of revised drawings. Revised drawings are needed for the application at 22110 Eighth Street showing the roof modifications as discussed and confirming the paint colors. Commissioner Mancil is assigned for construction review of the application.

Submission of revised elevation drawings showing the modified roof pitch are needed for the application at Keller and Ninth streets. Commissioner Blitch is assigned for construction review of the application.

For the application at 71434 St. Joseph Street, revised drawings are required, and paint colors must be submitted. Commissioner Dinkelacker is assigned for construction review of the application.

Commissioner Mancil motioned to accept the minutes of the December 8, 2020 meeting. Commissioner Dinkelacker seconded the motion. All commissioners were in favor.

The Commission reviewed 2021 meeting dates. Meetings are scheduled for the second Tuesday each month. No conflicts were noted.

Election of officers

Commissioner Blitch was nominated as Chair and Commissioner Mancil was nominated as Vice-chair. All commissioners were in favor.

Certificate of Appropriateness Abita Springs Cafe

An archway was constructed in the outdoor seating area at the Abita Springs Cafe. The property owner did not want to apply for the Certificate of Appropriateness. The Commission discussed the drive-thru access constructed on the property. Commissioner Mancil motioned to approve the archway. Commissioner Monnot seconded the motion. All commissioners were in favor. Commissioner Blitch added that any additional changes to the Café or sno-ball stand need to come before the Historic Commission for review and approval.

Certificate of Appropriateness 71162 Hwy 59

Commissioner Blitch provided some background on previous changes to the property that were not submitted for Historic Commission review. He said that a canopy over a deck has been constructed that was not approved by the Commission. Kristin Tortorich provided street view photos showing the canopy was constructed after January 2019. Commissioner Blitch said it is necessary to send a message that the canopy has not been done properly. The Commission discussed piles of soil and lumber on the property. Commissioner Mancil suggested that the property owner attend the next meeting to describe the site improvements.

Commissioner Blich said that he sees more violations in town than he has in recent years. He complimented and thanked Kristin Tortorich for resolving an issue with a non-conforming fence on a property on Level Street.

Kristin Tortorich said she would send a certified letter to the property owner stating that the Commission would like to discuss the canopy and state that no more work is to be done on the property before coming to the Commission.

DISCUSSION

The Commission reviewed the building permits section of the Town website. The Commission recommended some changes to the text for clarity regarding Historic Commission review prior to issuance of a building permit.

Paul Vogt mentioned a large treehouse has been constructed on a property at Magnolia and Level streets. He asked if a treehouse could be attached to a protected tree. Kristin Tortorich said that Cypress, Live Oak, Longleaf Pine and Magnolia are protected tree species. Commissioner Blich estimated that the treehouse may be 20 feet off the ground. He noted that the treehouse may need to come before the Commission.

Commissioner Mancil motioned to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Dinkelacker seconded the motion. All commissioners were in favor. The meeting adjourned at 6:42 p.m.

Kristin M. Tortorich, Planning and Zoning

Date