

The following minutes are from the Historic Commission meeting on Tuesday, July 13, 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 Ron Blitch, Paul Vogt, Thad Mancil, and Otto Dinkelacker. Andre Monnot was absent. Kristin Tortorich and Mark Fancey were also present.

The Commission reviewed the draft minutes from the June 8, 2021 meeting. Commissioner Mancil motioned to accept the minutes of the June 8, 2021 meeting. Commissioner Vogt seconded the motion. All commissioners were in favor.

Kristin Tortorich requested that the agenda be amended to include review of a storage building at 71450 St. Mary Street and to discuss the Trailhead building addition. Commissioner Vogt motioned to amend the agenda as stated. Commissioner Mancil seconded the motion. All commissioners were in favor.

Certificate of Appropriateness 71600 Leveson Street

The request is to construct a 4-foot high fence around a swimming pool. The Commission reviewed the site plan for the property. Commissioner Dinkelacker motioned to approve the request. Commissioner Mancil seconded the motion. All commissioners were in favor.

Certificate of Appropriateness Mama D's Pizza

The request is to expand the west wall of the building by 24 inches to accommodate a new pizza oven. One window would be removed and would be replaced with bricks to match the existing pattern.

Commissioner Mancil motioned to approve the request. Commissioner Dinkelacker seconded the motion. All commissioners were in favor. Commissioner Dinkelacker is assigned for follow-up.

Certificate of Appropriateness Artigue's Market

The request is to install a waterproofing project at the base of the building façade to improve storm drainage. Two courses of concrete block would be placed against the building. Commissioner Blitch and Commissioner Mancil offered suggestions as to flashing on top of the blocks to prevent water penetration.

Commissioner Mancil motioned to approve the request with paint color to match the existing building. Commissioner Vogt seconded the motion. All commissioners were in favor.

Certificate of Appropriateness 71350 St. Joseph Street

The request is to add handrails to an existing set of front steps. The handrails would attach to the face of two columns on the front porch. The Commission asked to review final drawings.

Commissioner Mancil motioned to approve the request subject to review of final details. Commissioner Dinkelacker seconded the motion. All commissioners were in favor. Commissioner Blitch is assigned for follow-up.

Certificate of Appropriateness Lot 3A St. Charles Street

The request is to construct a new single-family residence. Commissioner Blitch said that the building needs to be elevated to three (3) feet above grade, he said the drawings appear to show the building would be elevated higher than three (3) feet above grade.

Commissioner Dinkelacker reviewed the building checklist. Commissioner Blich noted that the porch needs to be extended approximately three (3) feet across the front façade to meet the Design Guideline requirements.

Commissioner Blich provided markups of the drawings showing revisions discussed. Commissioner Dinkelacker motioned to approve the request, subject to Commission's comments and discussion. Commissioner Mancil seconded the motion. All commissioners were in favor. Commissioner Mancil is assigned for follow-up.

Certificate of Appropriateness 71450 St. Mary Street

The request is to site a prefabricated storage building. Commissioner Blich said the building materials and roof design need to match the existing house. Commissioner Mancil suggested a shed with horizontal siding to match the house.

Commissioner Mancil motioned to approve the request. Commissioner Dinkelacker seconded the motion. All commissioners were in favor.

Certificate of Appropriateness 71351 St. Joseph Street

The request is to replace an existing roof. A black shingle roof would be replaced with similar materials.

Commissioner Mancil motioned to approve the request. Commissioner Dinkelacker seconded the motion. All commissioners were in favor.

DISCUSSION

22099 Hwy 36 – Cleanup Project

Buddy Coates is the new owner of building. He asked for assistance from the Commission to improve the overall building appearance.

Discussion ensued regarding access and parking at the front of the property. Commissioner Blich suggested installing landscaped islands planted with trees to improve the appearance of the property as an entry into Abita Springs. Commissioner Blich also provided suggestions regarding improved signage and front porch columns. He suggested painting the building white and replacing the existing fluorescent lighting with LED disc lights to improve the building's appearance.

Trailhead Addition

Commissioner Blich presented a sketch of a new storage building at the Trailhead. The Commission reviewed the design. Commissioner Blich noted the building would be two (2) stories with a loft storage area on the second floor.

Draft amendment to the Design Review Guidelines regarding picket fences

The Commission reviewed the draft amendment. Commissioner Mancil motioned to recommend adoption of the amendment by the Town Council. Commissioner Dinkelacker seconded the motion. All commissioners were in favor.

Public Comment

Stewart Eastman said the Commission is providing too much architectural advice and not providing enough emphasis on historic appearance. He said the Commission should have imposed requirements on Mama D's

Pizza to improve the appearance of the building and make it appear more historic. He said the Commission needs to push property owners to improve their buildings.

Commissioner Mancil responded that the proposed expansion at Mama' D's was simply to install a new oven. He said the Commission cannot force property owners spend money to fix their entire building. Commissioner Blich reiterated that the Commission cannot force people to make building improvements.

Commissioner Mancil motioned to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Vogt seconded the motion. All commissioners were in favor. The meeting adjourned at 7:24 p.m.

Kristin M. Tortorich, Planning and Zoning

Date