

The following minutes are from the Historic Commission meeting on Tuesday, June 8, 2021, in the Abita Springs Town Hall. The meeting convened at 6:00 p.m.

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

The Commission reviewed the draft minutes from the May 11, 2021, meeting. Commissioner Monnot motioned to accept the minutes of the May 11, 2021, meeting. Commissioner Dinkelacker seconded the motion. All commissioners were in favor.

Certificate of Appropriateness 22205 Main Street

The request is to construct a protective awning over a side entrance. The awning would be made of green fabric and would be as wide as the entrance steps.

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

Certificate of Appropriateness 71484 Warren Street

The request is to replace the existing stairs on a front porch. The stairs would be widened. Commissioner Dinkelacker offered an alternate design suggestion to narrow the stairs and eliminate a front porch column for discussion. He later amended these comments when informed that the front porch column is an original part of the house.

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

Certificate of Appropriateness 71320 Leveson Street

The request is to replace a front porch railing with a metal railing. The metal railing includes fleur-de-lis decoration and would be painted black. Commissioner Mancil motioned to approve the request. Commissioner Monnot seconded the motion. All commissioners were in favor.

Certificate of Appropriateness 71341 St. Joseph Street

The request is to replace a front porch railing with a metal railing. The metal railing includes fleur-de-lis decoration and would be painted black. Commissioner Monnot motioned to approve the request. Commissioner Mancil seconded the motion. All commissioners were in favor.

Certificate of Appropriateness 72082 Live Oak Street

The request is to construct a privacy fence in the rear yard. The 6-foot-high fence would match the side yard privacy fence approved by the Commission at the April 13, 2021, meeting.

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

Certificate of Appropriateness Cypress Street

The request is to construct a new single-family residence. Commissioner Mancil reviewed the building checklist. Commissioner Blich said that the building needs to be elevated to three (3) feet above grade, with a 2-foot-high clear space under the building. Discussion ensued regarding use of stucco for a fireplace. All items complied with the Design Guidelines. Commissioner Dinkelacker motioned to approve the request, subject to

revised drawings showing a 2-foot clear space under the building. Commissioner Monnot seconded the motion. All commissioners were in favor. Commissioner Blicht is assigned for follow-up.

Certificate of Appropriateness 71120 Bryan Street

The request is to construct a new fence. The front yard fence would be a 4-foot-high picket fence. Commissioner Blicht recommended that the pickets be spaced two (2) inches apart, rather than three (3) inches as stated in the Historic Design Guidelines. Rear fences would be either six (6) or seven (7) feet high depending upon location. The 7-foot-high portion would match the height of an adjacent privacy fence around a pool. Commissioner Mancil motioned to approve the request. Commissioner Dinkelacker seconded the motion. All commissioners were in favor.

DISCUSSION

22107 Hwy 36 – Potential new commercial building

The owner of Attics to Awesome discussed plans to construct an artist’s studio behind the existing building. She is concerned about floodplain elevations on the property. Commissioner Monnot reviewed flood maps for the property which show a 4-foot difference between property elevation and the Base Flood Elevation. Commissioner Blicht said that the amount of fill necessary to elevate the building elevation by four (4) feet would not be significant. Discussion of fill placement near the Abita River was discussed. The Commission was supportive of several possible building designs shown. Commissioner Mancil suggested a design that looks more like a barn.

Commissioner Blicht asked the status of proposed Town Ordinance amendments regarding Commission review of buildings within a Planned Unit Development (PUD). Mark Fancey said the amendments are currently before the Town Council.

Commissioner Blicht asked staff to begin the process to amend the Historic Design Guidelines regarding 2-inch spacing for pickets in fences.

Commissioners sang “Happy Birthday” to Kristin Tortorich.

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

Kristin M. Tortorich, Planning and Zoning

Date