

The following minutes are from the Historic Commission meeting on Tuesday, June 9, 2020 in the Abita Springs Town Hall. The meeting convened at 6:10 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, and Andre Monnot. Commissioner Andrew Vaughn and Commissioner Otto Dinkelacker were not present. Kristin Tortorich and Mark Fancey were also present.

The Commission reviewed the draft minutes from the May 12, 2020 meeting. Commissioner Mancil motioned to accept the minutes of the May 12, 2020 meeting. Commissioner Monnot seconded the motion. All commissioners were in favor.

**Certificate of Appropriateness 22272 Grover Street**

The request is to install 10' X 14' accessory building in the rear yard. The shed is a barn type structure with a gambrel roof. Commissioner Blitch noted that the shed would be located behind a fence and would not be visible from outside the property. Commissioner Mancil motioned to approve the request. Commissioner Monnot seconded the motion. All commissioners were in favor.

**Certificate of Appropriateness 72709 Maple Street**

The request is to construct a new library and classroom building at Abita Springs Middle School. The project also includes construction of a new storage shed, fencing and gates for the playground, and a canopied area for pick-up and drop-off of students. David Lachin of Lachin Architects provided an overview of the project.

The Commission offered several comments and suggestions regarding the design. Commissioner Blitch noted that brush in the area east of the school will be removed so the new buildings will be highly visible from the street. Commissioner Mancil said that the roll up door of the shed would be visible and suggested that the roof of the storage shed be constructed of more attractive materials. Commissioner Blitch said that the Commission needs to review and approve the color palette for the project. Commissioner Mancil suggested adding plantation-style louvers to the canopy to help with massing and add some relief from the hardy plank siding.

Commissioner Blitch suggested a motion to approve the request subject to submittal of the color palette, changes to the appearance of the shed, and relief from the flat sections of hardy plank siding. Commissioner Monnot made the motion as presented. Commissioner Mancil seconded the motion. All commissioners were in favor.

**CODE VIOLATIONS: DETERMINE COURSE OF ACTION**

**Fence: 71476 St. Mary Street**

A new privacy fence on the side yard is 7 feet tall and extends to the front property line. The Commission found that the fence violates the Design Guidelines. Commissioner Blitch made a motion to require that the fence be no more than 4 feet tall in the front yard and maintain that height for a minimum of 1/3 of the building depth as measured from the front façade. Commissioner Monnot seconded the motion. All commissioners were in favor.

**Fence: 22049 7th Street**

A new privacy fence on the rear yard is 7 feet tall. The fence extends down a portion of the side yard on St. Mary Street and exceeds the height requirement near the property line. The

Commission found that the fence violates the Design Guidelines. Commissioner Blich made a motion to require that the fence be no more than 4 feet tall near the front yard and maintain that height for a minimum of 1/3 of the building depth as measured from the front façade. Commissioner Monnot seconded the motion. All commissioners were in favor.

**Both property owners will receive a citation to appear in Mayor’s Court.**

**DISCUSSION**

**Fence: 71124 Minkler Street**

A new side yard fence exceeds the 7-foot height requirement and is constructed with wooden framing with corrugated metal panels. The fence extends near the front property line. The Commission found that the fence violates the height requirement and the metal panels are not an approved material for fences.

The property owner will receive a citation to appear in Mayor’s Court.

**Certificate of Appropriateness application fee schedule**

Kristin Tortorich said that the Commission needs to make a recommendation regarding the proposed fee schedule to be forwarded to the Town Council. Commissioner Blich made a motion to recommend a \$50 Certificate of Appropriateness application fee for all buildings and structures and a \$25 application fee for fences and signs. Commissioner Mancil seconded the motion. All commissioners were in favor.

**Proposed amendments to the Design Review Guidelines regarding porches, and corner lot fences**

The Commission reviewed a proposed amendment to the Design Guidelines that would increase the minimum depth for front porches on new construction from 7 feet to 8 feet.

Commissioner Blich made a motion to recommend adoption of the proposed amendment. Commissioner Mancil seconded the motion. All commissioners were in favor.

The Commission reviewed proposed amendments to the Design Guidelines regarding fence standards for corner lots. On street frontages a 4-foot height maximum would be required. For rear yards that abut the side yard of an adjacent property, the 4-foot fence height would need to be maintained for at least a 30-foot setback from the street side property line.

Commissioner Blich made a motion to recommend adoption of the proposed amendments. Commissioner Mancil seconded the motion. All commissioners were in favor.

Commissioner Monnot motioned to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Mancil seconded the motion. All commissioners were in favor. The meeting adjourned at 7:06 p.m.

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Kristin M. Tortorich, Planning and Zoning

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Date