

The following minutes are from the Historic Commission meeting on Tuesday, January 11, 2022, 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 Paul Vogt was absent. Kristin Tortorich and Mark Fancey were also present.

The Commission reviewed the draft minutes from the December 14, 2021, meeting. Commissioner Dinkelacker motioned to accept the minutes of the December 14, 2021, meeting. Commissioner Mancil seconded the motion. All commissioners were in favor.

Election of Chair and Vice Chair for 2022

Ron Blitch was nominated to serve as Chair and Thad Mancil was nominated to serve as Vice Chair. All commissioners were in favor.

Commissioner Mancil motioned to move the Certificate of Appropriateness for 22201 Level Street to a discussion item only. Commissioner Monnot seconded the motion. All commissioners were in favor.

The applicant then provided design drawings necessary to complete the application for a Certificate of Appropriateness. Later in the meeting, Commissioner Mancil motioned to move the item from discussion back to review for a Certificate of Appropriateness. Commissioner Dinkelacker seconded the motion. All commissioners were in favor.

Certificate of Appropriateness 71469 Hwy 59

The request is to construct a new fence. The proposed fence is a 4-foot-high picket fence that would tie into an existing fence on the property.

Stewart Eastman asked about setbacks for fences. Commissioner Blitch responded that fences can be placed on the property line.

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

Certificate of Appropriateness 22201 Level Street

The request is to construct an extension to an existing garage. Commissioner Dinkelacker reviewed the new construction checklist. He noted on the drawings that windows and window trim need to match the existing house. No issues were raised.

Commissioner Dinkelacker motioned to approve the request with changes noted on the drawings. Commissioner Mancil seconded the motion. All commissioners were in favor.

DISCUSSION

Public Comment

Stewart Eastman raised an issue regarding roof pitch and the resulting building footprint. Commissioner Blitch said that requiring an 8:12 roof pitch for all buildings is an example of a standard in the Historic Design Guidelines that needs to be amended.

Commissioner Blitch explained the proposed removal of a property on Dundee Street from the Historic District. The request has been reviewed by the Planning and Zoning Commission and is now before the Board of Alderman. Commissioner Mancil said if the request is approved than anyone with property at the edge of the Historic District can have the zoning changed.

Commissioner Dinkelacker expressed concern that encouraging applicants to build up the front yard in order to avoid having to install front porch handrails may be undermining the intent of the Historic Design Guidelines that houses by elevated three (3) feet above grade. Discussion ensued regarding the use of handrails.

Commissioner Blitch asked Mark Fancey to look into any other changes needed to the Historic Design Guidelines, such as the required 8:12 roof pitch.

Commissioner Monnot motioned to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Mancil seconded the motion. All commissioners were in favor. The meeting adjourned at 6:36 p.m.

Kristin M. Tortorich, Planning and Zoning

Date