

The following minutes are from the Historic Commission meeting on Tuesday, May 12, 2026, held in the Abita Springs Town Hall. The meeting convened at 6:05 P.M.

Commission Chairman Dinkelacker called the meeting to order. All stood for the Pledge of Allegiance led by Commissioner Blitch.

Commissioners Alissa Whitney, Andre Monnot, Ron Blitch, Otto Dinkelacker and Paul Vogt were all present. Staff member Kristin Tortorich was also present.

AGENDA MODIFICATION No modifications.

ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

The Commissioners reviewed the minutes of the April 14, 2026, meeting.

Commissioner Monnot motioned to accept the minutes of the April 14, 2026, meeting as submitted. Commissioner Whitney seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

CONSIDER CERTIFICATE OF APPROPRIATENESS 21464 Clear Creek Drive, Brighthouse Learning Academy

The application was for a new shed which would match two existing sheds. Michele Tinker, Head of School, said that the size would be a little larger with it being 12' x 24' instead of 12' x 20'. Commissioner Blitch asked about the color. Applicant Michele Tinker said it would be white with a gray roof. Commissioner Blitch asked if there were any zoning or setback issues. Kristin Tortorich said there weren't any issues with the addition of this shed. The shed will be placed in line and be the same height as the others.

Chairman Dinkelacker motioned to accept the application as submitted. Commissioner Blitch seconded the motion. All voted in favor. Commissioner Monnot was assigned.

CONSIDER CERTIFICATE OF APPROPRIATENESS 72079 Maple Street, Abita Springs Middle School

The application was for a new sign to replace the existing school sign. Principal Eddie Strohmeyer represented the school. Commissioner Blitch said the PTA purchased a sign for the school, but it was internally lit and did not meet the Historic guidelines. He explained this design would encapsulate the purchased sign with a header that matches the existing sign with colors that match the newer buildings. Commissioner Blitch said the letterboard at the base of the sign is allowed with individual letters, as long as there isn't back lighting. Principal Strohmeyer said the internal lighting would be removed to make sure it is in compliance. Commissioner Blitch thanked Principal Strohmeyer for working together to find a resolution. Principal Strohmeyer said the letter portion of the existing sign will be refurbished and used in this design. The sign will remain at the same location on the property.

Commissioner Blitch motioned to approve as submitted. Commissioner Whitney seconded the motion. All voted in favor. Commissioner Blitch was assigned.

CONSIDER CERTIFICATE OF APPROPRIATENESS 71625 St. Mary Street

The application was for a new sign by artist Dave Kelsey and a fence for a new pocket park. The park would be named L.C. Stire Park and located in a triangular parcel along Highway 59. Sandra Slifer, President of Keep Abita Beautiful (KAB), said L.C. Stire grew up in Abita Springs, was quite a historian for the town, and once lived in the house where the Nature Center is now. Kristin Tortorich added that L.C. worked for the Town's Public Works Department for about four years before he passed away. Ms.

Slifer then explained that there is a blighted house on the site that still needs to be demolished, but that KAB received a grant to help fund phase one of the park development. Phase one would be adding the sign, fence, benches and working on cleaning up the site. Ms. Slifer said the Garden Club has been involved in helping to identify plants that should be removed or relocated and those that need tending. The groups hope to repurpose the panels that were previously around the playground in the park if they are in usable condition. Sandra said that the groups are working in conjunction with the Town and the Town is taking responsibility for the demolition of the house. Ms. Slifer said the park would be a “funky” small space for residents to enjoy. Ms. Slifer added the park is not being designed as a child centric park due to the proximity to Highway 59 and she said she felt other locations are better suited for children’s activities, but this would be a great space for a neighborhood gathering. Commissioner Blitch asked about the location of the panels. Ms. Slifer said that it would depend on the number of panels that are in good condition. Commissioner Blitch suggested using the panels back-to-back so that the decorative sides are visible both from Highway 59 and inside the park and add fencing in the remainder of the space. Chairman Dinkelacker said the intent is a great idea and asked about the sign. Ms. Slifer said that the sign would be on the north end of the property between Highway 59 and St. Mary Street at 2nd Street. The sign would be two sided and display the name of the park with one side welcoming travelers to Historic Abita with the other side thanking them for coming to town. Commissioners Blitch and Dinkelacker asked about lighting. Sandra Slifer said if they add lighting, it will have downlighting with goosenecks that match the other sign on Highway 59 by Harrison Avenue.

Chairman Dinkelacker said more clarity about the fence is needed, such as the specific location of the fence, how each section of panels will be used, and what direction the decorative section would be facing. Commissioner Blitch asked for clarification on the sign details as well. He said it was not going to be a wooden sign as the application says composite material. Chairman Dinkelacker asked if it would be individual lettering, painted, or graphics printed on metal. Ms. Slifer said that she thinks it will be painted on metal for more durability while keeping it cost-effective for the group. She explained that the group has a short period of time to spend the money because Keep America Beautiful set a deadline of July 1, 2026. Chairman Dinkelacker said widely different versions of the fence could be implemented so he would like to see a submission with more specific details for the fence.

Commissioner Blitch suggested adding a section to the sign that recognizes Keep Abita Beautiful below the sign similar to the other signs they have installed.

Commissioner Blitch motioned to approve the application subject to final review of a defined site plan and final layout of both sides of reused panels. Commissioner Whitney seconded the motion. All voted in favor. Chairman Dinkelacker was assigned.

CONSIDER CERTIFICATE OF APPROPRIATENESS Lot 1A Square 48 St. Charles Street

The application was for a new single-family residence. Alex Meier and Shelley Meier represented Meier Custom Homes. The Commission reviewed the checklist. The foundation will be a raised post-tension slab with raised pier for the front porch. Band board/frieze board will wrap all around the house. If lattice is added to the porch area, it cannot cover the piers. The roof will be 8/12 pitch with asphalt shingles, color to be determined. No chimney. Columns will be stained. Hardie lap siding and vinyl soffit and fascia. 3.5” Hardie window trim. Shutters were removed from the application. The home will have painted fiberglass doors, treated wood steps and railings with 2-inch spindles, lights

will not be fluorescent or LED strip lighting. Paint colors to be determined. No fence or accessory buildings have been applied for at this time. Commissioner Blitch said color can be approved later (by email) and the screens on the back porch typically would have posts on the corner and by the door. Commissioner Blitch stressed the importance of not giving the appearance that the house was floating on screens, but to hold in the screen and allow the mass of the structure to be dominant. Wood steps with wood railings in the rear. The windows will be 2 over 2 tall windows.

Commissioner Blitch motioned to approve as reviewed with notes made to the checklist with colors to be determined at a later date. Vice Chairman Monnot seconded the motion. All voted in favor. The application was assigned to Chairman Dinkelacker.

DISCUSSION No discussion items.

OPEN COMMENTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Kristin Tortorich announced the Town will again be hosting the annual 4th of July celebration.

ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Whitney motioned to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Blitch seconded the motion. All voted in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 6:44 P.M.

Kristin Tortorich, Planning & Zoning Director

Date