

The following minutes are from the Historic Commission meeting on Tuesday, May 10, 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, Otto Dinkelacker, Andre Monnot, and Paul Vogt. Thad Mancil was absent. Kristin Tortorich and Mark Fancey were also present.

The Commission reviewed the draft minutes from the April 12, 2022, meeting. Commissioner Vogt motioned to accept the minutes of the April 12, 2022, meeting as presented. Commissioner Dinkelacker seconded the motion. All commissioners were in favor.

Certificate of Appropriateness 72535 Hwy 59

The request is to construct a new accessory building. The building would be elevated, covered with wood siding, and would be located in a side yard. Commissioner Blitch noted that the building would not be visible from Hwy 59. The building would be painted white with black trim. Commissioner Blitch asked the applicant to e-mail the final paint color selection.

Stewart Eastman asked if the building required a building permit. If not, he wondered why the Commission was reviewing the building. Commissioner Blitch responded that the Commission still reviews the building even if a Building Permit is not required. Kristin Tortorich said the building will still require a final inspection.

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

Certificate of Appropriateness 71156 Bryan Street

The request is to construct a 6-foot-high plank fence at the corner of Bryan Street and Walker Street. The front side of the fence would face Walker Street.

Stewart Eastman asked if the fence required a building permit. If not, he wondered why the fence was under review. Mark Fancey responded that the powers of the Historic Commission derive from the Zoning Ordinance and are not tied to building permits. He said the Commission is responsible for applying the Historic Design Guidelines, which contain standards for fences and accessory buildings. That is the reason these applications are being reviewed by the Commission.

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

Certificate of Appropriateness 101 Abita Oaks Loop

The request is to construct a privacy fence. The fence would be 6 feet tall with 2 feet of lattice at the top. The fence would be located along the rear property line and the side yard adjacent to Hwy 36.

Stewart Eastman said the Commission is not considering the entrances in town when they approve fences along highway corridors. Commissioner Blitch said the Commission forwarded changes to the Design Guidelines regarding fences on corner lots, but the Town Council did not adopt the changes.

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

DISCUSSION

Public Comment

Stewart Eastman said that chain link fences should be allowed. He said that chain link fencing was invented in 1844 and came to this country in the 1890s. He said chain link or wire fences were used historically to fence livestock and gardens. He said that surviving chain link fences should be protected and noted that these fences are allowed in historic areas of Mandeville. He said chain link fences are preferable to the wood and wire fence recently constructed across the street from Town Hall.

Commissioner Monnot motioned to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Vogt seconded the motion. All commissioners were in favor. The meeting adjourned at 6:22 p.m.

Kristin M. Tortorich, Planning and Zoning

Date