

Minutes  
Regular Meeting of the  
Aberdeen Historic Preservation Commission

January 27, 2014  
Monday, 5:00 p.m.

Robert N. Page Municipal Building  
Aberdeen, North Carolina

The Aberdeen Historic Preservation Commission met on Monday, January 27, 2014 at 5:00 p.m. for the Regular Meeting. Members present were Chairperson Kam Hurst, Mollie Wilson, Ernestine Chapman, Mike Lashley, and Jon Ring. Others in attendance were Planning Director Pamela Graham and Permit Technician Amy Fulp.

1. Call to Order

Chairperson Hurst called the meeting to order at 5:03 p.m.

2. Approval of Minutes

a. Regular scheduled meeting of December 16, 2013

Mike Lashley made a motion, seconded by Jon Ring, to approve the minutes as amended from the meeting of December 16, 2013. Motion unanimously carried.

3. New Business

All parties who would like to give evidence or testimony were sworn in before doing so.

a. Consideration of Certificate of Appropriateness COA #10-69 for new signs at 101 N. Sycamore Street.

Planning Director Graham stated this is an application for a business sign, specifically for the side of the building that faces Main Street.

Planning Director Graham stated in the last meeting they had a window sign for the Old Glory Hole building. We haven't been as consistent as we should have been with new Staff and working through these items. Around 2012 when we starting looking at some of the window signs and we looked at the specific wording in the design guidelines and what the Historic Preservation Committee has authority over, it is restricted to exterior only; a good bit of these window signs are either painted or applied to the interior of the glass.

Planning Director Graham stated we as Staff made it a policy to review these signs for compatibility with the Historic District and with the sign ordinance but that the commission has no authority over interiors. There have been several window signs that have come through and have not been brought to the Historic Commission and then we did bring this one for Mr. Toomer to the Historic Preservation Commission.

Planning Director Graham stated she and Jane Tercheria did talk about Mr. Toomer's window sign application and Jane Tercheria put in a check request to refund his COA application money. Planning Director Graham stated they had not put others with similar proposals through this process leading up to that and we need to be consistent in how these are handled.

Planning Director Graham stated she did have a conversation with Betsy Saye concerning the signs that she had put in the windows facing Sycamore Street. As long as the window signs meet the sign ordinance and are applied to the interior glass then it is not really classified as exterior changes to the building. Ms. Saye also wanted to put a wall sign on the Main Street side of the building which is classified as an exterior change to the building.

Jon Ring made a comment that the wall sign is already up. Planning Director Graham stated she did not know that and she will have a conversation with Ms. Saye concerning it.

Mike Lashley asked if there was a previous sign on the side of the building. Planning Director Graham stated there was a sign for the previous business and Ms. Saye wants to put hers in the same location. Staff can testify that it meets the dimensional requirements for our sign ordinance. The Historic Preservation Commissions task is to determine its compatibility with the Historic District.

Jon Ring stated the sign looks like it is made out of vinyl and not metal. Mollie Wilson questioned if the frame is made out of metal. Jon Ring stated he thought the frame was made out of wood but he isn't sure. Chairperson Hurst stated since they only have a picture they really can't tell.

Mollie Wilson stated that the application says photographs, drawings, and samples must be submitted at the time of the application. Mollie Wilson asked do they need to get someone back at the next meeting with samples. Planning Director Graham stated that is an option because the necessary information has not been provided.

Jon Ring stated the proposed sign is not historic looking. Planning Director Graham stated that Ms. Saye has created a logo for the business and has applied it to the sign.

Planning Director Graham stated perhaps in this case there is not a very well defined way to determine what is appropriate and what is not where signs are concerned. But flexibility is important to keep the buildings occupied and viable.

A motion was made by Mollie Wilson, seconded by Jon Ring, to table this item until the next meeting and ask the applicant for additional submittals to describe her proposal. Motion carried by a vote of 4 to 1.

#### 4. Other Business

##### a. Design Guidelines Update Project.

Planning Director Graham stated she wanted to let the Historic Preservation Commission know that everything is still on for Phil Thomason coming this week. She did have a little bit of input from some of the HPC members about some questions they have in mind already and they have been forwarded to Mr. Thomason.

Mike Lashley asked will they do updates as they go along for the Historic Preservation Commission. Planning Director Graham stated it will probably be a draft and they will be able to guide it as they go.

Chairperson Hurst wanted to talk to the Historic Preservation Commission about the room at the train station that is full of the old newspapers. With all the hot and cold going on right now she would like to try and get something done since they were molded the last time she looked at them. She has talked to the new Mayor and his suggestion was to put in some kind of vent so heat and air would go into the room. Planning Director Graham stated she would bring this up at the next work session if there is any room at the end.

Mollie Wilson asked about the mattress business and had Planning Director Graham been able to send out a violation letter. Planning Director Graham stated she had not sent out the violation letter yet, she had driven by there about 2 weeks ago and they had made some changes and she may not be in the position to send it out now. They are prohibited from using the space as storage but it can be vacant.

5. Adjourn

A motion was made by Mollie Wilson, seconded by Mike Lashley, to adjourn the meeting. Motion unanimously carried.

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Amy Fulp, Permit Technician  
Minutes were completed in  
Draft form on February 4, 2014

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Kam Hurst, Chairperson  
Minutes were approved  
on March 17, 2014