

TOWN OF ABINGDON
HISTORIC PRESERVATION REVIEW BOARD
REGULAR MEETING
JUNE 1, 2016 – 5:15 P.M.

The Regular meeting for the Historic Preservation Review Board was held on Wednesday, June 1, 2016, at 5:15 p.m. The meeting was held in the Municipal Building, Colonel Arthur Campbell room.

Mrs. White, Chairperson, called the meeting to order. Mr. Taylor called the roll.

ROLL CALL

Members Present: Mrs. Betsy White, Chairperson
Mr. Jeff Johnson, Vice-chairman
Mr. S. Andrew Neese

Comprising a quorum of the Board

Members Absent: Councilperson Jayne Duehring
Mr. Michael Weaver

Administrative Staff: Mr. Sean Taylor, Assistant Town Planner
Mrs. Jenny Carlisle, Planning Department
Mr. John Dew, Director of Public Services

Visitors: Mr. Byrum Geisler
Mr. Cindy Patterson

(2) Approval of Minutes: **Regular meeting, May 4, 2016**

Mr. Neese moved to approve the minutes from the regular meeting, May 4, 2016, as submitted. Mr. J. Johnson was not present at that meeting. Per Robert's Rules of Order the minutes are able to stand approved, as submitted, without a vote. It was noted that they will ask Mr. Weaver if he has any changes, submissions, or deletions at the next meeting.

Minutes stand approved as submitted.

(3) Discussion Topic: **Town of Abingdon, P.O. Box 789, Abingdon, VA 24212, owner; John Dew, representative;** discussion of sidewalks and curbing. **Located at East Main Street between Court Street and Tanner Street.**

Mr. Byrum Geisler began the discussion of sidewalks and curbing along Main Street by mentioning that the Town had recently removed some limestone stones that are part of the original design of the street,

and in fact, property owners were required to pay for the brick sidewalks and limestone stones upon original installation. He stated that if we expect property owners to take care of the original fabric of the Town then we should require the Town to do it as well. He asked what the Town’s plan was as far as the limestone stones are concerned.

Mr. John Dew began by apologizing that the stones were removed by a contractor. The limestone stones were the actual curb at one time, not the concrete curb there now that is part of the modern road system. There is a small gap between them and the modern curb and it becomes irregular, uneven, and difficult to maintain. They are also tripping hazards. He stated that he’d like to start a conversation as to a compromise to maintain the historic value of the stones, but at the same time maintain the safety of the walk surface. He asked if it would be a possibility to move the stones from the front edge to the back edge of the sidewalk so their presence is still there but the tripping hazard is eliminated. He noted that doing that would remove their purpose, but that their original purpose has already been removed by the installation of the more modern curb and gutter system.

Mrs. White proposed everyone walk around and look at them come up with suggestions. Discussion ensued.

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(4) Discussion Topic: NACP conference.

Discussion of the upcoming NACP conference took place. Mr. Neese and Mr. Weaver will attend the conference with Mr. Taylor, who is trying to get a grant to help pay for it. It is July 27 – 31. Ms. Cindy Patterson, newly elected councilperson, will see if she can go, as well.

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(5) Planning Department report; 411 East Valley Street waiver.

Mr. Taylor mentioned a waiver that staff issued for 411 East Valley Street. They are redoing their rear door which is not visible from Valley Street and is not adjacent to the Historic District.

A Barter tent will be up today through this weekend. They will not have amplified music, and they did fill out a building inspection application.

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There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:09 p.m.

Sean Taylor, Secretary

Mrs. Betsy White, Chairperson