

TOWN OF ABINGDON
BOARD OF ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW
REGULAR MEETING
JUNE 5, 2001 - 1:45 P.M.

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Architectural Review was held on Tuesday, June 5, 2001, at 1:45 P.M. The meeting was held in the Municipal Building, Downstairs Meeting Room.

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Charles R. Day, Chairman.

ROLL CALL

Members Present: Mr. Charles R. Day, Chairman
Mr. Fred H. St. John, Vice-Chairman
Mrs. Lois Humphreys
Mrs. Betsy White

Comprising a quorum of the Board

Members Absent: Mr. Andrew Hargroves

Administrative Staff: Mr. Albert C. Bradley, Director of Planning/Zoning

Visitors: Mr. Byrum L. Geisler, Attorney
Ms. Cindy Patterson
Mrs. Andrea Jennings
Mr. Sam Hurt
Mr. Rae Mullins

* * * * *

- (2) Approval of Minutes Regular Meeting, May 1, 2001

Motion was made by Mr. St. John, seconded by Mrs. Humphreys, and unanimously resolved to approve minutes of the Regular Meeting, May 1, 2001.

* * * * *

- (3) Certificate of Appropriateness – **Byrum L. Geisler & Elizabeth McClanahan**, 208 East Main Street, Abingdon, Virginia 24210, application for Certificate of Appropriateness for approval of renovation of structure located at **226-230 East Main Street (Washington House)**, for use as residential-single family and retail spaces on ground floor. **Tax Map No. 13 (1) 96, 97. (THIS WAS A CONTINUED DISCUSSION OF THE PREVIOUS APPLICATION SUBMITTED BY MR. GEISLER AND MS. MCCLANAHAN, HEARD AT THE SPECIAL MEETING HELD NOVEMBER 16, 2000.**

This is a request for approval of renovation of structure located at 226-230 East Main Street (Washington House).

The proposed restoration of the referenced structure was discussed previously at a Special Meeting held on November 16, 2000 by the Board of Architectural Review. The proposed plans included the restoration of the missing portion of the eastern part of the building to its original 1985 appearance and the construction of a porch with Doric columns on the rear of the building. Following this meeting, plans were submitted to the Virginia Department of Historic Resources and application was made for a Historic Property Rehabilitation tax credit.

In 1868, the attic area of the eastern portion of the building collapsed, resulting in the current, asymmetrical appearance of the building. Instead of rebuilding the missing section, the owner simply placed a shed roof over the remaining portion, thus giving the building its current appearance. At this same time, the owner remodeled the building by adding the two merchant spaces on the first floor.

Based on the foregoing, the Virginia Department of Historic Resources rejected the portion of the plan that called for the restoration of the missing section. The architect with the Virginia Department of Historic Resources reasoned that if the missing section were to be replaced and the later merchant spaces were left intact, the structure was not being restored to a specific time period.

The Virginia Department of Historic Resources also objected to the proposed rear porch design on the basis it resembled the type of porch more frequently found on the front of a house.

In order to receive the approval of the Virginia Department of Historic Resources, the applicant has been forced to modify original plans. Instead of restoring the missing section, it has been agreed to keep the shed roof feature of the building intact and restore the building to its 1868-2000 appearance. It has also been agreed to use square, narrow columns on the back porch and use a less elaborate cornice.

Since the missing section of the building will not be restored as originally planned, the roof will be replaced with a new roof of the same appearance.

For approval of a rehabilitation tax credit, the taxpayer is only under an obligation to keep the building in the approved state for five years. At the end of the five-year period, the applicants will be free to restore the building consistent with the original plans, which is their intention.

After discussion, Mr. St. John made a motion that the revised roofing and porch plans be approved. Mrs. White seconded the motion, with unanimous approval.

* * * * *

- (4) Certificate of Appropriateness – **Holston United Methodist Home for Children, Inc. (Abingdon United Methodist Church)**, 115 East Main Street, Abingdon, Virginia 24210; application for Certificate of Appropriateness for approval of one (1) sign to be located at **115 East Main Street. Tax Map No. 12 (1) 89.**

This is a request for approval of one (1) sign to be located at 115 East Main Street.

The proposed sign will be a double-faced sign, constructed of a composite aluminum, 36 in. x 22.5 in. in size, with white background, reddish-color lettering and trim and will be mounted on aluminum post with arm.

After discussion, it was decided by the members of the Board that the size of the sign should be reduced to 24 in. x 24 in. and a review of a sample of the materials of the sign and colors to be used were necessary before approval could be granted. Mr. Mullins will supply the information as requested by the Board.

* * * * *

- (5) Certificate of Appropriateness – **Penn Stuart (Virginia House Company)**, 208 East Main Street, Abingdon, Virginia 24210; application for Certificate of Appropriateness for approval of one (1) sign to be located at **208 East Main Street. Tax Map No. 13 (1) 99, 100, 101.**

This is a request for approval of one (1) sign to be located at 208 East Main Street.

The proposed sign will be constructed of redwood, 16 in. x 36 in. in size, with forest green color background, cream color lettering and border, and will be mounted on steel post with wrought iron bracket, with a low wrought iron fence around the sign post. The sign will be located in front of the double doors at 208 East Main Street. The sign will read “Penn Stuart, Since 1890”. The existing sign that hangs over the door will be removed and not replaced.

After discussion, Mrs. White made a motion that this application be approved. Mrs. Humphreys seconded the motion, with unanimous approval.

* * * * *

- (6) Certificate of Appropriateness – **Mary C. Patterson (Black’s Fort Inn)**, 410 Green Springs Road, Abingdon, Virginia 24210; application for Certificate of Appropriateness for approval of the following miscellaneous changes for property located at **410 Green Springs Road:** (1) one sign; (2) remove existing broken 50+ year old sidewalk and porch, and replace with textured concrete; and (3) replace driveway with pea gravel or textured concrete. **Tax Map No. 21 (1) 1, 2, 3.**

This is a request for approval of the following changes to be made at property located at 410 Green Springs Road:

1. one (1) sign, 24 in. x 24 in. in size, constructed of redwood, with dark green or hunter green background, almond or off-white lettering and border. The sign will be mounted on post with acorn finial, approximately three feet from street. The sign will read “Black’s Fort Inn” (with logo).
Mr. St. John made a motion that the request for the sign be approved. Mrs. Humphreys seconded the motion, with unanimous approval.
2. remove existing broken 50+ year old sidewalk and porch that will be replaced with textured concrete.
3. replace driveway with pea gravel or textured concrete.

Mr. St. John made a motion that the requests for sidewalk, porch and driveway be approved. Mrs. White seconded the motion, with unanimous approval.

* * * * *

- (7) Certificate of Appropriateness – **Andrea Jennings (Washington House/New Light Gallery)**, 226-230 East Main Street, Abingdon, Virginia 24210; application for Certificate of Appropriateness for approval of one (1) sign to be located on property at **226 East Main Street. Tax Map No. 13 (1) 96, 97.**

This is a request for approval of one (1) sign to be located at 226 East Main Street.

The proposed wooden or aluminum storefront sign will be mounted on existing header panel. The background of sign will be dark green (almost black) to match shutters. The lettering will be a sandstone color to match the lentil color on the building. The sign will read “New Light Gallery”.

After discussion, Mr. St. John made a motion that this application be approved, subject to the sign being constructed of wood. Mrs. White seconded the motion, with unanimous approval.

* * * * *

- (8) Certificate of Appropriateness – **Katherine Rose (Washington House/Wines of Distinction)**, 226-230 East Main Street, Abingdon, Virginia 24210; application for Certificate of Appropriateness for approval of one (1) sign to be located on property at **230 East Main Street. Tax Map No. 13 (1) 96, 97.**

This is a request for approval of one (1) sign to be located at 230 East Main Street.

The proposed wooden or aluminum storefront sign will be mounted on existing header panel. The background of sign will be dark green (almost black) to match shutters. The lettering will be a sandstone color to match the lentil color on the building. The sign will read “Wines of Distinction”.

After discussion, Mrs. Humphreys made a motion that this application be approved, subject to the sign being constructed of wood. Mrs. White seconded the motion, with unanimous approval.

Charles R. Day, Chairman

Albert C. Bradley, Secretary