

TOWN OF ABINGDON  
BOARD OF ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW  
RECONVENED MEETING FROM MARCH 5, 2008  
MARCH 12, 2008 - 5:00 P.M.

A reconvened meeting of the Board of Architectural Review was held Wednesday, March 12, 2008 at 5:00 P.M. The meeting was held in the Municipal Building, Downstairs Meeting Room.

Dr. Charles M. Owens, Chairman, called the meeting to order. Mr. Jackson called the roll.

ROLL CALL

Members Present: Dr. Charles M. Owens, Chairman  
Mr. Robert M. Howard, Vice-Chairman  
Mr. Byrum Geisler  
Mr. Peyton Boyd

Comprising a quorum of the Board

Members Absent: Mrs. Doris Shuman

Administrative Staff: Mr. Garret Jackson, Director of Planning/Zoning  
Mrs. Cathy Lowe, Town Council Person  
Mr. Michael Worrell, Code Compliance Officer  
Mrs. Deborah Icenhour, Town Attorney

Visitors: Mr. R. L. Light  
Ms. Sharon Livingston  
Mr. Terry Livingston  
Ms. Lisa Silcox

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- (4) CERTIFICATE OF APPROPRIATENESS - **Terry and Sharon Livingston**, 16020 Mendota Road, Abingdon, VA 24210; application for Certificate of Appropriateness for approval of proposed structure to be **located at the southeast corner of Tanner Street and East Main Street**, to be used as a restaurant. **Tax Map No. 13 (1) 71.** *(Tabled from regular meeting, March 5, 2008).*

This application was originally submitted for review at the February 6, 2008 meeting. At that time the application was tabled until February 19, 2008, at which time the Board once again tabled the application, requesting more information from the applicant, and requesting guidance from an architect regarding the design and scale of the structure, best location suited for proposed structure on property, landscape screening and other minor recommendations made by members of the Board.

As previously discussed, the proposed structure will be constructed of hardi-plank siding, gold in color, with closed shutters on upper level, black in color with awnings on windows, white in color. The roof will be covered with architectural shingles, having a weathered look.

A revised plan for the proposed structure was presented for further review by the Board as a result of issues revealed by the Board, at the February 19, 2008 meeting. There were several issues still unclear, including reducing the large massing of the roof, modulating the plan to create variation of planes in the facade, adding detail to the side elevations, planning for the screening of rooftop equipment, windows, colors to be used and guttering.

At the March 5<sup>th</sup> meeting, it was the consensus of the Board members that this application be tabled once again and the meeting be recessed until Wednesday, March 12, 2008, 5:00 P.M., allowing the applicant and architect sufficient time to resolve the issues discussed.

The original concept presented to the Board as well as the first drawings prepared by Mr. Light were heavily influenced by the Italianate style of numerous 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> Century mercantile buildings in Abingdon. The current design presented seemed to have both Italianate and 18<sup>th</sup> Century (Georgian) references.

Italianate elements include the verticality of the central stepped parapeted element and the paired windows. Georgian elements include the minimal roof overhang, 6:12 roof pitch, "12 over 12" muntin pattern of the windows, and modillion trim under the eaves.

Mr. Boyd suggested to eliminate the Georgian elements in favor of stronger references to the Italianate model by incorporating the following, thus achieving more stylistic consistency in the design:

- Reduce the roof pitch to 4:12 or less (whatever minimum slope works with the roofing material selected).
- Provide more roof overhang – at least 1 foot exclusive of gutter.
- Provide one- or two-pane glazing in the window sashes. Preferably, "2 over 2" because this proportion would help create a greater sense of verticality.
- Consider restoring the Italianate cornice brackets from the earlier design, but in any case eliminate the modillions.
- Consider restoring the main entrance door and surround from the previous design, which seems more appropriate to the Italianate style. If the half-round window is retained, revise the muntin pattern to provide fewer divisions and vertical muntins only.
- Increase the height of the central element slightly (1 ft. to 2 ft.) and eliminate strong horizontal trim element that detracts from the sense of verticality.
- Consider giving the top of the central element more visual "heft" by restoring the brackets and other detailing from the previous design. Eliminate any literal reference to the (former) Abingdon General Store (arched element at top of parapet, etc.)

Several Board members showed concerns in the type of guttering to be used, indicating that half-round guttering is preferred.

After further discussion, Mr. Geisler made a motion to approve application based on recommendations by Board. Mr. Howard seconded the motion, with unanimous approval.

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- (5) **CERTIFICATE OF APPROPRIATENESS - Town of Abingdon, Gregory W. Kelly, Representative**, 133 West Main Street, Abingdon, VA 24210; application for approval of "clock" to be located at 133 West Main Street. Tax Map No. 12 (1) 80. (*Tabled from regular meeting, March 5, 2008*).

This application is requesting approval to remove fountain mechanism from existing fountain located at 133 West Main Street and replace with street clock. The clock will have a chime system, be approximately 16 ft. 7 in. from grade, black in color, with wording on clock to read "Abingdon – 1778". Flowers will be planted around base of clock in fountain.

At the March 5<sup>th</sup> meeting, it was the consensus of the Board members that the height of the proposed clock would be too disproportionate to the building and recommendation was made to table this application and the meeting be recessed until Wednesday, March 12, 2008, allowing time for further review of the placement of the clock and its surroundings.

The Staff and Board of Architectural members inspected the proposed location with a tape measure and it was the consensus of the Board that the clock at 16' 6.25", would tower over the front facade and not be easily read by pedestrian or vehicular traffic at such a great height. In addition, the 4-dail clock proposed would not be as appropriate as the 2 or even 3-dailed clock, as the building obstructs the view of the 4<sup>th</sup> dial.

After further discussion, with sensitivities to the Town's desire for the chime feature, Mr. Howard made a motion that the Town investigate into the possibilities of a shorter post, 10 to 12 feet in height, with a 2 or 3-dailed clock. Mr. Geisler seconded the motion with unanimous approval.

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There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

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Dr. Charles M. Owens, Chairman

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W. Garrett Jackson, Secretary