

TOWN OF ABINGDON
BOARD OF ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW
REGULAR MEETING
MAY 7, 2014 – 5:15 P.M.

The Regular meeting for the Board of Architectural Review was held on Wednesday, May 7, 2014, at 5:15 p.m. The meeting was held in the Municipal Building, Colonel Arthur Campbell room.

Mr. Geisler, Acting Chairman, called the meeting to order. Mr. Taylor called the roll.

ROLL CALL

Members Present: Mr. Byrum Geisler
Mrs. Jayne Duehring
Mrs. Betsy White
Mr. Peyton Boyd
Mr. S. Andrew Neese

Comprising a quorum of the Board

Members Absent: None

Administrative Staff: Mr. W. Garrett Jackson, Assistant Town Manager
Director of Planning/Zoning
Mr. Sean C. Taylor, Assistant Town Planner
Mrs. Deborah Icenhour, Town Attorney (Absent)
Ms. Rebecca Moody, Environmental Planner/
Sustainability Coordinator (Absent)
Mr. C. J. McGlothlin, Code Enforcement Officer (Absent)
Mrs. Jenny Carlisle, Administrative Assistant: Planning,
Public Works, Public Services

Visitors: Ms. Rachel Fowlkes
Mr. Santiago Figaredo
Dr. C. Mike Owens

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(2) Approval of minutes: Regular meeting, April 2, 2014.

Mrs. White made a motion to approve the minutes from the Regular meeting, April 2, 2014, as presented. Mrs. Duehring seconded. Motion carried.

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(3) Reorganization: Election of Chairperson and Vice Chairperson.

Mr. Boyd made a motion to elect Mrs. White as Chairperson. Mr. Neese seconded. All in favor, with Mrs. White abstaining. Motion carried.

Mr. Boyd made a motion to elect Mr. Geisler as Vice Chairman. Mrs. White seconded. All in favor, with Mr. Geisler abstaining. Motion carried.

At this point in the meeting, Mrs. White took over as Chairperson.

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- (4) Certificate of Appropriateness – **Rachel Fowlkes, owner; Peyton Boyd, representative**, 127 East Main Street, Abingdon VA 24210; application for Certificate of Appropriateness for approval of restoration to building **located at 127 East Main Street. Tax Map No. 12 (1) 91.**

Mr. Boyd introduced the proposed redesign of plans previously approved by the board. The redesign includes a single door with two sidelights and a small overhang on the first floor. Clarification was made that the door and sidelights won't be visible from the road because of a privacy fence that will be installed later in the project. In addition, they proposed to install brick in the area where the fire stairs/deck once were instead of a new window as was previously approved.

Mr. Geisler made a motion to approve the proposed redesign, as presented. Mrs. Duehring seconded. Approved unanimously, with Mr. Boyd abstaining. No further discussion.

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- (5) Certificate of Appropriateness – **Santiago Figaredo, applicant**, 190 East Main Street, Abingdon VA 24210; application for approval of sign to be **located at 190 East Main Street. Tax Map No. 013 (1) 106.**

Mr. Figaredo presented a request for signage. It will be hung above the doors to Figaredo's restaurant, in alignment with the doors, not the curve of the building. It will be one-sided, facing the street, the same width as the double doors, which are between 5 and 5 ½ feet wide, and will be 1 foot high. The letters will be 8 inches high and it will be the same design as the current sign, just larger.

Mr. Taylor clarified that it does exceed size guidelines but that there is evidence of larger signage in the space in the past, therefore it is allowed.

Mr. Figaredo then asked if the sign could be illuminated with copper or antique looking gooseneck LED lighting. He would like to install 2 - 3 lights for the sign.

Mr. Boyd made a motion to approve the sign with lighting, as presented. Mr. Neese seconded. All in favor, motion carried. No further discussion.

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- (6) DISCUSSION – Historic Preservation Plan.

Discussion of the Historic Preservation Plan continued. It was mentioned that it would be helpful to have a workable inventory database of all structures in the district, listing what properties have come before the BAR, when, and what for, with photographs included. Also discussed was that the board should drive through neighborhoods and pinpoint neglect, putting specific properties on the radar to prevent demolition by neglect.

Mrs. White then questioned the need for the \$50 Certificate of Appropriateness application fee. Mr. Jackson explained that it came about five years ago when people were abusing the system with applications, bogging down review board and staff time, then not doing the work. He mentioned that there should be flexibility, but that some sort of fee needs to be maintained. Mr. Jackson will check into how other communities handle fees. Mr. Taylor suggested scaling the fee to the job.

Other topics discussed include moving forward with a speaker series for education, officially having the name of the board changed to Historic Preservation Review Board, and scheduling to update the plan every 10 years with a review every 5, thus making it parallel to the Town’s Comprehensive plan.

Mr. Geisler provided an overview of his research on the Virginia Code with regards to demolition by neglect. There has been some confusion as to what the Code requires and Mr. Geisler will continue to research the subject.

Dr. Owens discussed a potential long term goal for the board to try to establish a trust, endowment or easement so the town can purchase properties that are facing situations of demolition by neglect or economic hardship instead of them having to be listed for sale and deteriorate further for a year.

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There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:41 p.m.

Mrs. White, Chairperson

Sean C. Taylor, Secretary