

TOWN OF ABINGDON
BOARD OF ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW
REGULAR MEETING
JULY 2, 2008 - 5:00 P.M.

The regular meeting of the Board of Architectural Review was held Wednesday, July 2, 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 and welcomed Mr. Jason Berry as a new member to the Board of Architectural Review. Mr. Jackson called the roll.

ROLL CALL

Members Present: Dr. Charles M. Owens, Chairman
Mr. Jason Berry
Mrs. Doris Shuman
Mr. Byrum Geisler
Mr. Peyton Boyd

Comprising a quorum of the Board

Members Absent: None

Administrative Staff: Mr. Garrett Jackson, Director Planning/Zoning
Mr. Sean Taylor, Assistant Director Planning/Zoning
Ms. Deborah Icenhour, Town Attorney

Visitors: Ms. Stephanie Levesque
Mrs. Jan Hurt
Mrs. Kitty Henninger
Mr. Jim Bundy
Mr. Robert Howard

(2) Approval of Minutes Regular Meeting, June 4, 2008

Mr. Geisler made a motion that the minutes of the regular meeting, June 4, 2008, be approved. Mr. Boyd seconded the motion, with unanimous approval.

(3) **STOP WORK ORDER ISSUED - NO CERTIFICATE OF APPROPRIATENESS - Glenn Harrison, Owner, 2951 West Front Street, Richlands, VA 24641 and Blue Ridge Chiropractic Office, Tenant, 212 East Valley Street, Abingdon, VA 24210; vinyl siding on structure located at 212 East Valley Street. Tax Map No. 13 (1) 38.**

On Thursday, June 26, 2008, the Staff was alerted by an Old & Historic District resident that vinyl siding was being installed on the structure located at 212 East Valley Street. Members of the Staff visited the site and issued a Stop Work Order to the workers, owners and tenant of the property. Work continued later on in the day.

Ms. Levesque, of Blue Ridge Chiropractic Office, and tenant of the property located at 212 East Valley Street, explained that several areas of the existing structure has no overhang, and

the structure’s wood siding was in such a deteriorating state, it was felt that the vinyl siding would improve the appearance and would blend with the structure located at 220 East Valley Street which already had vinyl siding. Ms. Levesque further stated that before installing the vinyl siding the wood siding of the structure was pressured washed which further damaged the existing materials.

After a lengthy discussion, including references to approved items, by the Board of Architectural Review, for this property in 1995, and references to the Guidelines for the Old and Historic District, Mr. Geisler made a motion that approval of the vinyl siding recently installed on the structure located at 212 East Valley Street be denied, with recommendation that the applicant submit an application requesting approval of other allowable materials. Mrs. Shuman seconded the motion.

VOTE:	Mr. Geisler	Aye
	Mrs. Shuman	Aye
	Mr. Boyd	Aye
	Dr. Owens	Aye
	Mr. Berry	Abstained

The motion passed.

A letter will be sent to Mr. Harrison explaining the Board’s decision and the process for appealing this decision, if so desired.

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- (4) CERTIFICATE OF APPROPRIATENESS - **Glenn Harrison, Owner**, 2951 West Front Street, Suite 3800, Richlands, VA 24641, and **Stephanie Levesque, Representative**; application for Certificate of Appropriateness requesting approval of fence to be **located at 220 East Valley Street. Tax Map No. 13 (1) 37.**

This is a request for approval of a proposed fence to be installed at 220 East Valley Street. The picket fence will be 3 feet in height, constructed of treated lumber, painted white. The pickets will be 4 inches in width with a one inch space between each. The top of the fence will be scalloped and there will be a gate on either end of the fenced area, 4 feet in width. The fence will enclose a proposed patio area; all modifications are located on the east side of the building.

After discussion, Mr. Geisler made a motion to approve the proposed fence with gates, as presented. Mrs. Shuman seconded the motion seconded the motion, with unanimous approval.

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- (5) CERTIFICATE OF APPROPRIATENESS - **Town of Abingdon**, P. O. Box 789, Abingdon, VA 24212; application for Certificate of Appropriateness for approval of Black’s Fort Informational Marker **to be located on Creeper Trail right-of-way.**

This is a request for approval of a Black’s Fort Informational Marker to be placed at the trailhead of the Virginia Creeper Trail. The marker will be a single post marker, not unlike those used by the National Park Service to explain the significance of historical events, places, and/or people. The sign will be constructed of fiberglass materials and will be covered with a plexi-glass shield to better protect it from vandalism. There will be an unveiling of the sign on August 3, 2008 at 2:00 P.M. at the Creeper Trailhead.

Mr. Boyd commented that he felt there was too much text information and the text was too small for easy reading.

After discussion, Mr. Geisler made a motion to approve the marker, as presented. Mrs. Shuman seconded the motion, with unanimous approval.

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- (6) **CERTIFICATE OF APPROPRIATENESS - Washington County Board of Supervisors (Courthouse), 191 East Main Street, Abingdon, VA 24210; application for Certificate of Appropriateness for approval of Tiffany Window marker, to be located on Courthouse lawn.**

This is a request for approval of a Tiffany Window Marker to be located on the Washington County Courthouse lawn. The Veteran’s Memorial Park Board of Directors has proposed to place the informational marker on the lawn, in order to draw attention to the Tiffany-Stained Glass window above the front door of the Courthouse. The window was installed in memoriam to those who fought and served in World War I. The Town is in the preliminary stages of creating a public art walk and this will be featured in the walk.

Mr. Boyd commented that he felt there was too much text information and the text was too small for easy reading.

After discussion, Mr. Berry made a motion to approve the marker, as presented. Mr. Geisler seconded the motion, with unanimous approval

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- (7) **CERTIFICATE OF APPROPRIATENESS - Highlands Bankshares, Inc., P. O. Box 1128, Abingdon, VA 24212 and Bundy Architecture & Engineering, Inc., Representative/Architect, application for Certificate of Appropriateness for approval to restore all existing materials on existing structure located at 274 West Valley Street. Tax Map No. 11 (1) 94.**

This is a request for approval to restore all existing materials on existing structure located at 274 West Valley Street.

Mr. Bundy explained that the plan is to restore existing structure as built, with exception of back porch which will be removed and replaced with a three-story porch, from basement up. The structure’s asbestos siding remains in good condition which will be washed and painted white. The existing asphalt shingle roof will be replaced with new asphalt shingles, same as existing color. The structure will be used for business offices.

After discussion, Mr. Boyd made a motion to approve the application, as submitted. Mrs. Shuman seconded the motion, with unanimous approval.

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- (8) CERTIFICATE OF APPROPRIATENESS - **Robert and Susan Howard**, 122 Valley Street, N.W., Abingdon, VA 24210; application for Certificate of Appropriateness for the following: (1) approval to enlarge current dormer on rear of house to allow extra space and (2) approval of the use of a fiber cement siding on proposed dormer. **Tax Map No. 12 (1) 55A.**

This is a request for approval to enlarge current dormer on rear of house to allow extra space in the two second floor rooms. The applicants are also requesting approval of the option for the use of a fiber cement siding instead of vinyl siding on the dormer, if cost feasible. All materials will match and blend with existing structure.

After discussion, Mrs. Shuman made a motion to approve the application, as submitted. Mr. Geisler seconded the motion, with unanimous approval.

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Mr. Jackson explained that the handrails in the handicapped area at the side of the Barter Theatre and front of the Municipal Building have been changed from a flat handrail to a round handrail, bringing the handrails in compliance with State Code requirements.

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- (9) DISCUSSION - Creation Of New Certificate of Appropriateness Form

It was suggested and agreed upon by the Board that a new Certificate of Appropriateness form be created in order to accommodate the applicant by completion of the form at which meeting each application has been presented for approval. The form will state the approved items, etc. and make the applicant aware that if project changes are made without approval by the Board of Architectural Review, the applicant may be subject to a Stop Work Order and be responsible for any incurred expenses according to the Town Code.

After discussion, Mr. Geisler made a motion that a new form, as discussed, be created for future use, and to be effective immediately. Mr. Boyd seconded the motion, with unanimous approval.

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- (10) STAFF CHANGES

The July 2008 Board of Architectural Review meeting is the first meeting for Mr. Sean Taylor, Assistant Town Planner, as the Staff liaison to the Board. All future inquiries regarding Old and Historic matters or matters of Historic Preservation are to be directed to Mr. Taylor.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Dr. Charles M. Owens, Chairman

W. Garrett Jackson, Secretary