

TOWN OF ABINGDON
BOARD OF ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW
REGULAR MEETING
SEPTEMBER 7, 2005 - 1:00 P.M.

The regular meeting of the Board of Architectural Review was held Wednesday, September 7, 2005, at 1:00 P.M. The meeting was held in the Municipal Building, Downstairs Meeting Room.

Mrs. Betsy White, Chairman, called the meeting to order, welcoming visitors and explaining the purposes of the Board of Architectural Review.

ROLL CALL

Members Present Mrs. Betsy White, Chairman
 Mr. Thomas C. Phillips
 Mrs. Doris Shuman
 Mr. Harry McKinney
 Mr. Andrew Hargroves

Comprising a quorum of the Board

Members Absent: None

Administrative Staff: Mr. W. Garrett Jackson, Director of Planning/Zoning
 Mr. Gregory W. Kelly, Town Attorney

Visitors: Mr. Fred H. St. John
 Judge Randall Lowe
 Mr. Frank Canter
 Mr. Joel Harte
 Mr. James Sack
 Mrs. Diane Sack
 Ms Doris Lavere
 Ms. Annette Aronson
 Mrs. Julianne Finney
 Mr. William Cline
 Mrs. Betty Cline

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(2) Approval of Minutes: Regular Meeting, June 1, 2005
 Regular Meeting, July 6, 2005
 Regular Meeting, August 3, 2005

It was noted that the minutes for the regular meetings, referenced above, were incomplete at this time due to malfunction of transcribing devices. The minutes will be furnished at a later date.

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- (3) **Certificate of Appropriateness - Abingdon United Methodist Church**, 101 East Main Street, Abingdon, Virginia 24210; application for Certificate of Appropriateness for approval to change color of roof and gutters of structure (church parsonage) located at **101 East Main Street. Tax Map No. 12 (1) 8.**

The Board briefly discussed this application at the regular meeting, August 3, 2005 however, since there was no representative at the meeting and a sample of the paint to be used, Virginia green, was unavailable, the application was tabled until a sample of the paint color could be obtained.

This is a request to change the colors of the roof and guttering on the structure located at 101 East Main Street. It is requested that the roof color be change from black to Virginia green and the guttering color be changed from cream to Virginia green, to match the existing shutters.

After discussion, Mrs. Shuman made a motion that the request to change color of roof from black to Virginia green, and guttering to be painted white instead of Virginia green, be approved. Mr. Phillips seconded the motion, with unanimous approval.

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- (4) **Certificate of Appropriateness - Julianne A. Finney**, 129 East Main Street, Abingdon, Virginia 24210; application for Certificate of Appropriateness for approval of proposed construction, addition to existing outbuilding, with property being located on Plumb Alley (at rear of structure located at **129 East Main Street**). **Tax Map No. 12 (1) 92.**

This application was discussed at the regular meeting, August 3, 2005, requesting approval for a proposed small addition on existing outbuilding at rear of property located at 129 East Main Street. The existing building is presently being used as a small vehicle garage. The proposed plan is to renovate the inside of the garage and construct an addition to make it into a guest cottage. This cottage will only be for family use.

The proposed addition will be constructed using the same wooden tap siding that is on the original structure, with same standing seam roof material and colors used on all existing structures on the property. The garage door will be removed and replaced with wood siding. A wooden window will be added which will be the same as windows on existing building.

Mr. McKinney made a motion at the August 3rd meeting, that the request be approved based upon the recommendation of moving the front wall of the proposed structure, which faces Plumb Alley, back to a minimum of 8 to 12 inches from existing front wall of garage. Also, with the understanding if the applicant would like to return to the Board they could give her a more detailed explanation, if she is in agreement. If not in agreement, the applicant would return to the next meeting for further review. Mr. McKinney felt this recommendation better conforms to the Secretary and Interior Standards, and would be an easier project for the applicant and would look better from its roofline.

The proposed addition will not extend toward Plumb Alley but will extend 5 feet, 5 inches into graveled parking area.

Mrs. Finney returned to the meeting today, with new plans which had been prepared according to Mr. McKinney’s recommendation.

After discussion, Mrs. Shuman made a motion that the revised plans for this project be approved. Mr. McKinney seconded the motion, with unanimous approval.

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- (5) **Certificate of Appropriateness - “A Night In Abingdon”, (Doris LaVere and Annette Aronson, Owners/Representatives), 139 West Valley Street, Abingdon, Virginia 24210; application for Certificate of Appropriateness for approval of one (1) sign to be located at 139 West Valley Street. Tax Map No. 12 (1) 9.**

This is a request for approval of one (1) sign to be located at 139 West Valley Street. The freestanding sign will be 32 in. x 18 in., sandblasted, fiberglass materials. The background color will be Virginia green, with black/gold-leaf border and white gold-leaf lettering. The sign will hang from “arm” of decorative metal post near sidewalk and brick wall. The purpose of the sign is to identify name of short-stay apartment rental for professionals. The sign will read **“A Night in Abingdon”, Elegant One Bedroom Apartment Nightly or Weekly, 276-676-3556.**

After discussion, Mrs. Shuman made a motion that the sign be approved. Mr. Hargroves seconded the motion, with unanimous approval.

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- (6) **Certificate of Appropriateness - “Abingdon Quilt Cottage” (James & Diane Sack, Owners/Representatives), 267 East Valley Street, Abingdon, Virginia 24210; application for Certificate of Appropriateness for the following: removal of trees/shrubbery, paint, gutters, new handicap ramp, flower gardens, park bench, new gravel in driveway, one (1) business sign and replace wooden front door. The property is located at 267 East Valley Street. Tax Map No. 13 (1) 18.**

This is a request for approval for the following:

- 1. **Removal of two (2) large maple trees, small dogwood tree and shrubbery in front of house**

Mr. Kevin Sigmon, Town Arborist has evaluated this request and his findings are as follows:

- the large sugar maple tree in front yard will have canopy raised (lower limbs trimmed) to allow more sunlight as opposed to removing tree
- the large sugar maple on side property (side yard of Dr. Wessell’s office structure) will have its canopy raised
- the dogwood in front yard is in poor condition and has recommended removing and replacing with a new dogwood
- the boxwood shrubbery on front of property is in poor condition and has recommended that it be removed and replaced with new landscaping

- hemlocks between the Sack property and the Hurt property to be dead-wooded and maintained so they can remain in good health and serve as a buffer zone between the two properties

After discussion, Mr. McKinney made a motion that the Board accept the Arborist's recommendation and approve as submitted. Mrs. Shuman seconded the motion, with unanimous approval.

2. paint

This is a request for approval to repaint existing structure and shutters. The structure will be repainted white and the shutters will be repainted deep pine green.

After discussion, Mrs. Shuman made a motion that the request to repaint with same existing colors be approved. Mr. McKinney seconded the motion, with unanimous approval.

3. replace front wooden door

This is a request for approval to replace front wooden door.

The applicant explain that a door had not been selected for replacement at this time but would like to replace existing door.

After discussion, it was suggested that the applicant return at a later date with a sample of door to be selected for further review by the Board.

4. guttering

This is a request for approval to replace existing guttering, due to deterioration.

After discussion, Mr. Hargroves made a motion that the request to replace gutters be approved with replacement to be white, aluminum og gutters. Mrs. Shuman seconded the motion, with unanimous approval.

5. new handicap ramp

This is a request for approval of concrete handicap ramp with black iron railings from driveway to front step. There will be flowers or some type of landscaping placed in front of the ramp for screening.

After discussion, Mrs. Shuman made a motion that the request for the proposed handicap ramp be approved, as submitted, with a plan for landscaping and screening to be provided at a later date. Mr. Phillips seconded the motion, with unanimous approval.

6. addition of flower gardens and park bench

It is requested flower gardens be allowed to be located along side of house where shrubbery will be removed and a park bench with small flower garden to be placed on right side of walkway.

After discussion, it was suggested that the applicant return at a later date with plans for each, the flower gardens and park bench, when other landscaping plans will be reviewed

7. new gravel driveway

This is a request to add pea gravel and tar sealer to existing driveway, and extend driveway to back of property for parking. It is necessary for the use of tar sealer for the use of wheelchairs.

After discussion, Mrs. Shuman made a motion that the peal gravel and tar sealer be approved for the existing driveway and extension of driveway to back of property. Mr. McKinney seconded the motion, with unanimous approval.

8. one (1) sign

This is a request for approval of one (1) sign 24 in. x 24 in. in size, having white background and black lettering, to be mounted on white, wooden sign post and will be located in center of property approximately 2 ½ft. from sidewalk. The sign will read “Abingdon Quilt Cottage, Quilts Fabrics Gifts”.

After discussion, Mr. McKinney made a motion that the sign be approved. Mrs. Shuman seconded the motion, with unanimous approval.

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(7) Certificate of Appropriateness - William and Betty Cline, 108 East Valley Street, Abingdon, Virginia 24210; application for Certificate of Appropriateness for approval of vinyl siding that has been placed on structure located at 108 East Valley Street. Tax Map No.

William and Betty Cline have submitted an application for Certificate of Appropriateness for approval of vinyl siding that has been placed on structure located at 108 East Valley Street. Mr. and Mrs. Cline have indicated that they will not remove the synthetic siding, stating that when the vinyl siding was installed they were not aware that it was not allowed in the Historic District. They indicated they never received any Guidelines or information pertaining to the regulations to make them aware that this type of work in the Historic District was not permissible.

Mr. & Mrs. Cline, along with Board members, discussed this request and were unable to reach a compromise regarding this application request.

The Board and Mr. Jackson will meet with Mr. Greg Kelly, Town Attorney, to determine what alternatives the Board may have in handling this matter.

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(8) Discussion - Re-visit from Washington County Board of Supervisors (Washington County Courthouse), Frank Canter, Representative, 205 Academy Drive, Abingdon, Virginia 24210; regarding construction of Courthouse Entrance Doors, with property being located at 191 East Main Street. Tax Map No. 13 (1) 61.


This was a continued discussion from the regular meeting, August 3, 2005, regarding construction and/or replacement of courthouse entrance doors. It was noted that the existing doors are not the original doors, as originally believed. Mr. Canter contacted Historical Society which enabled him to get the earliest photographs available and it appears that the existing building and doors are entirely different than the photographs show.

Judge Lowe stated that Mr. Joel Harte has been contracted to construct the doors. The doors will be constructed of oak wood, having same appearance as the existing doors (with removal of windows) using the recommendation of Mr. McKinney which suggested the doors have pivot hinges and locking devices, include fire bars, and allowing the doors to open outside not inside, without doing anything else to the door frame.

After discussion, Mrs. Shuman made a motion that the request be approved, subject to the doors be constructed according to the recommendation by Mr. McKinney. Mr. Hargroves seconded the motion, with unanimous approval.

There being no further business, a motion was made, duly seconded and unanimously approved that the meeting be adjourned.


W. Garrett Jackson, Secretary


Betsy White, Chairman