

**TOWN OF ABINGDON
HISTORIC PRESERVATION REVIEW BOARD
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 6, 2021 – 5:15 P.M.
COUNCIL CHAMBERS– MUNICIPAL BUILDING**

A Regular meeting of the Historic Preservation Review Board was held on Wednesday, January 6, 2021, at 5:15 pm in the Council Chambers in the Municipal Building.

A. WELCOME by – Mr. Byrum Geisler

B. ROLL CALL – Jason Boswell, Director of Community Development

Members of the Board Present:

**Mr. Mike Owens
Mrs. Kristi Hartshorn
Mr. Michael Weaver
Mrs. Betsy White
Mr. Byrum Geisler**

Members of the Board Absent:

Comprising a quorum of the Board - Yes

Administrative/Town Staff:

**Mr. Jason Boswell, Director of Community
Development
Mr. Mason Gragg, Town Planner
Mr. Cameron Bell, Town Attorney
Mrs. Janice Dornon, Administrative Assistant**

C. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. December 2, 2020, Regular Meeting

On a motion by Mrs. White, seconded by Mr. Owens, the Board approved the minutes for December 2, 2020, Regular Meeting as presented.

The roll call vote was as follows:

Mr. Mike Owens	Aye
Mrs. Kristi Hartshorn	Aye
Mr. Michael Weaver	Aye
Mrs. Betsy White	Aye
Mr. Byrum Geisler	Aye

The board approved the December 2, 2020, Regular Meeting minutes as presented.

2. December 16, 2020, Special Called Meeting

On a motion by Mrs. White, seconded by Mr. Owens, the Board approved the minutes for December 16, 2020, Special Called Meeting as amended.

The roll call vote was as follows:

Mr. Mike Owens	Abstained from December 16, 2020
Mrs. Kristi Hartshorn	Aye
Mr. Michael Weaver	Aye
Mrs. Betsy White	Aye
Mr. Byrum Geisler	Aye

The board approved the December 16, 2020, Special Called Meeting minutes as amended.

D. CERTIFICATE OF APPROPRIATENESS

1. Certificate of Appropriateness – Bassett Aye; 134 Wall Street, Abingdon, VA 24210; owner. Application for Certificate of Appropriateness to enclose patio. Located at 134 Wall Street, Abingdon, VA 24210. Tax Map No. (019-2-16)

Mr. Bassett Aye and architect R. L. Light, represented the property located at 134 Wall Street.

Mr. Aye explained he needed additional space for his customers, therefore needed to enclose the patio to make room for year-round dining.

Mr. Ayeb would like to enlarge the entrance by making the front door wider.

Mr. Ayeb explained that the patio has a temporary covering that is not practical in inclement weather. He plans to add a permanent wall and roof.

Mrs. Hartshorn asked if the roof would be attached to the neighboring building.

Mr. Light said that flashing would be used to keep water away from the mercantile building. There will be a gap between the two buildings and the roof will not be attached to the neighboring mercantile building.

Mr. Weaver indicated that the board could go ahead and approve the concept.

The materials and design for the enclosed patio and façade was further discussed amongst the applicant and the board members. The new brick wall will be painted and will be laid to match the pattern of the existing structure. Mr. Geisler made it clear that the new paint scheme would need to match the existing color scheme. The expansion of the front door could also be approved as presented.

The board reiterated that the new paint scheme should match the existing scheme. If the color scheme was changed in the slightest, Mr. Ayeb would need to come back in front of the board for approval. Mr. Weaver told Mr. Ayeb that changing the color scheme on the building would change the character of the building.

Mr. Geisler informed Mr. Ayeb that he will need a Building Permit before beginning construction on the project.

On a motion by Mr. Weaver and seconded by Mrs. Hartshorn, the Board approved the design concept, paint scheme, and the front door expansion as presented.

The roll call vote was as follows:

Mr. Mike Owens	Aye
Mrs. Kristi Hartshorn	Aye
Mr. Michael Weaver	Aye
Mrs. Betsy White	Aye
Mr. Byrum Geisler	Aye

The board approved the design concept, paint scheme, and the front door expansion as presented for the property located at 134 Wall Street.

E. PUBLIC COMMENTS – None

F. DISCUSSION

1. Preservation Plan - Sub-Committee

Mr. Cameron Bell, Town Attorney, addressed the board explaining that their first action should be to amend or modify the By-Laws to permit sub-committees and to gain

permission from the Town Council before they move forward with updating the Preservation Plan.

Mr. Bell advised the board that it might be beneficial to wait until the Zoning and Subdivision Ordinance Update is underway. This update could assist the board with suggestions and “best practices” established across the Commonwealth. He explained that if the HPRBs mutual desire was to expand the Old & Historic District, the motion would need to come from the Planning Commission and/or the Town Council.

Mr. Geisler advised the board that if three or more members were to meet at any given time, the meeting would need to be advertised to be compliant with the Virginia Code public advertisement requirements.

Mrs. White reminded the board that Mr. Phil Thomason from Knoxville came to Abingdon as a planning consultant to take inventory of the Historic District. Mayor Joe Riley from Charleston, South Carolina also came to speak to the board as an advisor. He shared his personal expertise on how Charleston handled their historic properties and sites.

Mr. Boswell stated that Town staff wouldn't be able to offer the preservation plan the attention required due to the town beginning in the process of completely overhauling the Zoning and Subdivision Ordinances. Mr. Boswell explained that Mr. Gragg is currently collaborating with Town GIS personnel to add additional layers of contributing and non-contributing structures on the ESRI system. The Virginia Cultural Resource Information System data has also been added to the HPRB site.

Mrs. White indicated that the Preservation Plan was last visited in 2014. Independent studies from the past note that the 300 block of Main Street and Stonewall Heights show historical significance and could be added to the district with owner approval. Mr. Boswell said that Oak Hill Street is included in the Department of Historical Resources expansion. Mrs. White explained the reasoning behind the preservation landscape notes. Overgrown vegetation and shrubbery could damage structures and foundations, and therefore should be regulated.

Mr. Geisler quoted the HPRB guidelines for the role of the HPRB members.

Mr. Weaver acknowledged that the Preservation Plan will have a long timeline to completion.

Mr. Bell asked the board what they envisioned in the final draft of the Preservation Plan.

Mr. Owens told the board that he thought most of the Preservation Plan was completed.

Mr. Geisler summarized the Preservation Plan discussion as follows:

1. Mr. Mike Owens will present the idea of updating the Preservation Plan to Town Council at the next scheduled work session, January 19, 2021. If permission is granted, the HPRB will move forward with preliminary discussions.

2. Amend the By-Laws: Allow the HPRB to form sub-committees.

On a motion by Mrs. White and seconded by Mrs. Hartshorn, the Board approved the motion to seek permission from Town Council and to update the By-Laws.

The roll call vote was as follows:

Mr. Mike Owens	Aye
Mrs. Kristi Hartshorn	Aye
Mr. Michael Weaver	Aye
Mrs. Betsy White	Aye
Mr. Byrum Geisler	Aye

The board approved the motion to seek permission from Town Council and to update the By-Laws.

G. OLD BUSINESS/MATTERS NOT ON THE AGENDA - None

H. ANNOUNCEMENTS - None

I. ADJOURNMENT

On Motion by Mrs. Hartshorn, seconded by Mr. Owens, for the Board to adjourn the meeting.

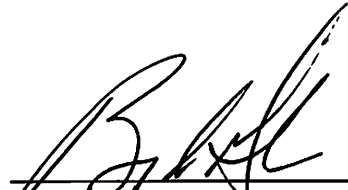
The roll call vote was as follows:

Mr. Mike Owens	Aye
Mrs. Kristi Hartshorn	Aye
Mr. Michael Weaver	Aye
Mrs. Betsy White	Aye
Mr. Byrum Geisler	Aye

Mr. Geisler declared the meeting adjourned.

Meeting adjourned at 6:10 P. M.

January 6, 2021
Regular Meeting



Mr. Byrum Geisler, Chairman



Jason Boswell, Director of Community Development