

**TOWN OF ABINGDON
HISTORIC PRESERVATION REVIEW BOARD
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 3, 2021 – 5:15 P.M.
COUNCIL CHAMBERS– MUNICIPAL BUILDING**

A Regular meeting of the Historic Preservation Review Board was held on Wednesday, March 3, 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
Mrs. Janice Dornon, Administrative Assistant**

C. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. March 3, 2021, Regular Meeting

On a motion by Mrs. White, seconded by Mr. Owens, the board approved the minutes for February 3, 2021 Regular Meeting as presented.

The roll call vote was as follows:

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

The board approved February 3, 2021, Regular Meeting minutes as presented.

D. CERTIFICATE OF APPROPRIATENESS

1. Certificate of Appropriateness –Washington County Government, 1 Government Center, Abingdon, VA 24210; Owner. Jason Berry, Abingdon, VA; Representative. Application for Certificate of Appropriateness to demolish the Elliott Building. Located at 179 & 181 E. Main Street, Abingdon, VA 24210. Tax Map No. (013-1-60)

Dewayne Ball represented the property located at 179 & 181 Main Street, Abingdon, Virginia, for the Washington County Board of Supervisors.

Mr. Ball began by apologizing to the board for not being able to present detail oriented renderings. Washington County is not able to release any conceptual designs before a final contract has been signed. They have two competing prototypes for the final selection process at this time.

Mr. Ball said that on April 27, 2021 they would be having a Public Hearing to release the awarded contract and final plan. Weather permitting the demolition will begin as soon as possible. Taft & Frye have been contracted for the demolition.

Mr. Owens printed several copies of the Old and Historic District Guidelines to give the board of supervisors to reference during the building and design process. This should serve as an aid to the Courthouse Committee during the design process.

Mrs. White explained that new construction is a challenge for a historic preservation board. The site that the new construction will be placed on is one of the most historic sites within the corporate limits of Abingdon, and therefore it is crucial that the Design Review Guidelines are met.

Mr. Ball told the board that the Washington County Board of Supervisors would be presenting monthly progress reports to the HPRB.

On a motion by Mr. Owens and seconded by Mrs. White, the board approved the COA as presented to demolish the Elliott Building (179 & 181 E. Main Street).

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 COA as presented for the property located at 179 & 181 E. Main Street, Abingdon, VA for the demolition of the Elliott Building.

2. Certificate of Appropriateness – Abingdon United Methodist Church, 101 East Main Street, Abingdon, VA 24210; Owner. Lucas Manweiler; Representative.

Application for Certificate of Appropriateness to place a Historical Highway Marker at the home place of Richard Lynch Garner. Located at 101 East Main Street, Abingdon, VA 24210. Tax Map No. (012-1-88)

Mr. Lucas Manweiler represented the property located at 101 East Main Street.

Mr. Manweiler stated he is submitting an application to have a sign created in honor of Mr. Richard Lynch Garner. Richard Garner was born in Abingdon, Virginia in the year 1848. He went on to lead groundbreaking research through primatology and reach many outstanding accomplishments throughout his lifetime. The proposed size is 3 ½ x 2 ½, made of cast iron, painted silver, cast in aluminum with black lettering. The United Methodist Church has agreed to have the sign placed along the Southeast corner of the parcel. The sign will be located on private property, outside of the right-of-way. The sign will consist of a synopsis of Garner’s life and legacy. The United Methodist Church has agreed to fund a portion of the sign cost.

Mr. Manweiler will need the board’s approval before the Virginia Department of Historical Resources will continue processing the application.

Mr. Weaver asks if this would be a safety issue, with people slowing down in their vehicles to read the sign. The applicant assured Mr. Weaver that the sign would have no adverse impact on passing traffic.

On a motion by Mr. Weaver and seconded by Mrs. Hartshorn the board approved the COA 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 COA as presented for the property located at 101 East Main Street, Abingdon, VA.

3. Certificate of Appropriateness –Abingdon Adventures LLC, P.O. Box 1174, Damascus, VA 24236; Owner. Michael Wright; Representative. Application for Certificate of Appropriateness for signage. Located at 306 Depot Square SW, Abingdon, VA 24210. Tax Map No. (019-2-15)

Mr. Michael Wright represented the property located at 306 Depot Square SW.

Mr. Wright proposed a colored rendering of a circular sign that would be no more than four square feet in area. The aluminum sign will be attached to an existing pole and mount.

On a motion by Mrs. Hartshorn and seconded by Mrs. White, the board approved the COA 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 COA as presented for the property located at 360 Depot Square SW, Abingdon, VA.

4. Certificate of Appropriateness –Seth R. White, P.O. Box 520, Richlands, VA 24641; Owner. Application for Certificate of Appropriateness to replace roof and gutters. Located at 313 W. Valley Street, Abingdon, VA 24210. Tax Map No. (11-5-112A)

Mr. Seth White represented the property located at 313 W. Valley Street, Abingdon, VA.

Mr. White said that the existing roof is original to the house and he has put several thousand dollars into repairing the roof.

Mr. White is proposing to leave the copper roof on the front porch, the black standing metal roof on the back porch, and the recently refurbished dormer roof above the back window. He hopes to replace the upper roof with Estate Gray asphalt shingles and replace the existing gutters with ½ round guttering to make the structure more period appropriate.

On a motion by Mrs. Hartshorn and seconded by Mr. Owens, the board approved the COA 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 COA as presented for the property located at 313 W. Valley Street, Abingdon VA.

5. Certificate of Appropriateness – Fields-Penn House, Town of Abingdon; Owner. Matt Henderson; Representative. Application for Certificate of Appropriateness for the basement door, exterior lighting, rear porch construction, shutter repair, front porch, walkways, and ramps. Located at 208 West Main Street, Abingdon, VA 24210. Tax Map No. (012-1-125)

Mr. Matt Henderson represented the property located at 208 West Main Street, Abingdon, VA.

Mr. Henderson proposed the following items for repair at the Fields-Penn House:

1. Repair the cellar-basement entrance with the addition of standing seam to match the current roof.
2. Add two exterior lights on the front porch. Add three fixtures in the ceiling of the back porch. This item was tabled until the light fixtures have been selected.
3. Replace and/or repair the porch on the rear of the property. The structure is not currently safe for public use due to the handrails, columns and decking being weathered and aged. The existing porch will be replicated and the same color scheme will be used.

4. The shutters have been removed for maintenance and repair. The color is currently green and will be repainted white per historical photographs.
5. The front porch will be upgraded to meet ADA compliance. The porch deck will need to be raised 3-4 inches. The porch and roof will remain secured to the structure. The old decking will be removed and replaced for a smooth transition. This front porch is not original.
6. The two proposed walkways in the front of the property will be redone to reach ADA compliance. The walkways will increase in a steady grade to connect flush with the newly lifted front porch. This will allow for easy transition into the front door. Some of the shrubby will be removed during this process. The current shrubs are making the existing pavers uneven. The brick will match the existing pavers and will be purchased from Watsontown Brick.
7. The representative proposed replacing the roof to prevent future leaks after all the renovations have been completed. The current standing seam roof measures 24". This width of roof is no longer available from distributors. 18" standing seam panels are the largest on the market at this time. This item was not tabled, however, the board wanted additional information and visuals of the current roof condition.
8. The replacement of the rear porch ceiling was tabled until further notice.

On a motion by Mrs. White, seconded by Mrs. Hartshorn, the board approved the COA as presented, with the exception of the exterior light fixtures and the replacement of the rear porch ceiling.

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 COA as presented, with the exception of the exterior light fixtures and the replacement of the rear porch ceiling. for the property located at 208 West Main Street, Abingdon, VA.

E. PUBLIC COMMENTS

F. DISCUSSION

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

1. Preservation Plan - Sub-Committee

Mr. Owens is to compile the 1998 and 2014 reports for a clear list of goals.

Berkley Group to review Historic District to include the 300 block of Main Street, Park Street, Depot Square and Oak Hill Street to Stonewall Heights.

Mr. Boswell told the board that a Historic District does not have to be continuous.

The Preservation Plan committee will determine what their priorities will be.

H. ANNOUNCEMENTS - None

I. ADJOURNMENT

On Motion by Mr. Weaver, seconded by Mrs. Hartshorn, 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 6:55 P. M.



Byrum Geisler, Chairman



Jason Boswell, Director of Community Development