

**TOWN OF ABINGDON  
HISTORIC PRESERVATION REVIEW BOARD  
REGULAR MEETING  
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 4, 2023 – 5:15 P.M.  
COUNCIL CHAMBERS– MUNICIPAL BUILDING**

A regular meeting of the Historic Preservation Review Board was held on Wednesday, January 4, 2023, at 5:15 pm in the Council Chambers in the Municipal Building.

**A. WELCOME BY– Mr. Byrum Geisler**

**B. ROLL CALL – Mrs. Mayana Rice, Assistant Town Manager**

Members of the Board Present:       **Mrs. Kristi Hartshorn  
Mr. Byrum Geisler  
Mrs. Betsy White**

**Members Absent:                   Mr. Dwayne Anderson  
Mr. Peyton Boyd**

**Comprising a quorum of the Board – Yes**

Administrative Town Staff:           **Mrs. Mayana Rice, Assistant Town Manager  
Mr. Nick Howard, Planning Tech**

**C. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

- **October 26, 2022 – Special Called Meeting**
- **November 30, 2022 – Special Called Meeting**
- **December 7, 2022 – Regular Meeting**

**On a motion by Mrs. White, seconded by Mts. Hartshorn the HPRB voted to approve all three sets of minutes as presented.**

**The roll call vote was as follows:**

<b>Mrs. Kristi Hartshorn</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Mr. Byrum Geisler</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Mrs. Betsy White</b>	<b>Aye</b>

## C. CERTIFICATE OF APPROPRIATENESS

1. **Certificate of Appropriateness** – *Abingdon United Methodist Church, Glenn Patterson, Representative. 101 E. Main Street, Abingdon VA 24210. Certificate of Appropriateness for Exterior Stair Railings. Located at 101 E. Main Street, Abingdon, VA 24210. Tax Map (012-1-88) VIDEO (15:40 – 23:10)*

### A. Staff report

### B. Applicant presentation

### C. HPRB discussion and decision

Mayana Rice provided the staff report.

Glenn Patterson, Associate Pastor for Abingdon United Methodist Church (Applicant) has requested approval of a Certificate of Appropriateness for a metal exterior stair railing. The property is located on 101 E. Main Street (012-1-88). The property is within the Old and Historic Zoning District (Sub-District 5).

In 1883 trustees of the Methodist Episcopal Church South bought lots 7 & 8 from Henry Sinon. Construction of the church began in 1883. A 2-story frame parsonage was built on the east side of the church by 1890, but was torn down in 1954. A brick annex was added behind the sanctuary in 1914. In 1952 a new brick educational wing was constructed taking the place of two existing structures at the time.

The applicant is proposing to install two metal railings to act as a central handrails for the exterior stairs leading to the pair of front doors (facing E. Main Street) into the 1883 section of the church. The metal railing will consist of 2” tubing with round caps and an antique finish.

Upon visiting the site, staff observed the two sets of existing metal railings associated with the exterior stairs leading into the 1883 section of the church consist of tubing and have round caps. The railings have a dull finish mostly likely from years of weathering.

However, the two existing railings are different. The plates anchoring the railing posts to the brick floor are different sizes. The plates associated with the railings leading into the vestibule are smaller in diameter compared to the ones associated with the railings leading into the tower.

Connections between the posts and railing end caps differ too. When looking at the railing leading into the vestibule of the church, the connection between the post and end cap is round where the top of the post terminates into the end cap. The connection between the post and end cap associated with the railing leading into the tower is tapered in the middle.

Mr. Patterson states that the railing he is requesting will be placed in the center of the staircase to allow people to have something to hold on to as soon as they come out of the church doors. The railing will have a brass finish meant to match the two existing rails on the same staircase.

**On a motion by Mrs. White, seconded by Mrs. Hartshorn, the HPRB voted to approve the Certificate of Appropriateness as presented.**

**The roll call vote was as follows:**

<b>Mrs. Kristi Hartshorn</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Mr. Byrum Geisler</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Mrs. Betsy White</b>	<b>Aye</b>

**F. PUBLIC COMMENTS - None**

**G. BUSINESS/MATTERS NOT ON THE AGENDA**

- **HPRB Organizational Discussion (*VIDEO 34:32 – 48:40*)**

The board discusses the number of members who have terms expiring in 2023. The board is asked for their opinion on extending the term limits to three consecutive terms instead of two. The board expressed their interest in favor of extending the term limits. Mayana Rice states that staff will begin drafting language to present to the Town Council for this amendment to the bylaws.

- **Review of drafted language for temporary signage, outdoor lighting, and staircase railings. (*VIDEO 48:41 – 58:42*)**

The board is presented with the language drafted by staff for temporary signage, outdoor lighting, and staircase railings in the historic district. In the sentence stating “All signage within the Old and Historic District can be four square feet or less” Mrs. Hartshorn suggests replacing the word “can” with “must.” The board states that it will look over the drafted language during the coming weeks and come back with any more suggestions for the next meeting.

**H. ADJOURNMENT**

**On Motion by Mrs. Hartshorn, seconded by Mrs. White, the board voted to adjourn the meeting.**

**The roll call vote was as follows:**

<b>Mrs. Kristi Hartshorn</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Mr. Byrum Geisler</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Mrs. Betsy White</b>	<b>Aye</b>

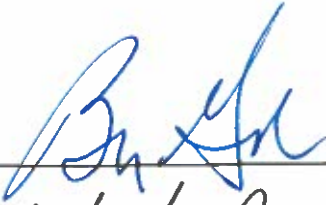
**Mr. Geisler declared the meeting adjourned.**

**Meeting adjourned at 6:15 P. M.**

\_\_\_\_\_ **Byrum Geisler, Chairman**

\_\_\_\_\_ **Gabriel Cristofari, Senior Planner/GIS  
Specialist**

Meeting adjourned at 6:15 P. M.



Byrum Geisler, Chairman



Gabriel Cristofari, Senior Planner/GIS

Specialist