

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW BOARD OF THE TOWN OF STRASBURG HELD ON THURSDAY, MARCH 17, 2016 AT 6:00 P.M. IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS OF THE TOWN HALL.

ARB Members present: Chairperson Rathore and Board Members Kimmons, Lefkowitz, Massey, and Poling. Absent: Board Member Keefe.

Staff: Town Manager Spitzer, Planning and Zoning Administrator Pearson, and Clerk of Council Keller

Chairperson Rathore called the meeting to order.

Action Items:

1. Approval of Minutes: March 17, 2016

The minutes of the March 17, 2016 were approved as motion by Board Member Poling and second by Board Member Kimmons.

2. 267 South Holliday Street: Major Modification Two-story Porch Replacement

P&Z Administrator Pearson said the request is to remove and replace a porch in the back of the structure. The porch is visible from both Afton Place and Brown Street.

Mr. Leon Smith, owner, said the porch is pulling away from the building itself. He wanted to jack the front porch up and found out it can't be jacked up due to damage to the foundation.

P&Z Administrator Pearson said staff's recommendation is that the proposal is in compliance with the UDO and Historic Guidelines.

Board Member Kimmons asked what the timeframe is on building it back and **Mr. Smith** said he will need to have the money to build it back. It was thought the top porch was not original to the house, but **Board Member Massey** said he thought it was since there is an outside door.

Board Member Lefkowitz said he doesn't think it is unusual to have the slope **Mr. Smith** is speaking of.

Board Member Wheeler said she hates to see it come down, but doesn't feel that he has much choice.

Board Member Lefkowitz moved to approve the major modification as presented; second by Board Member Wheeler. With no further discussion, the motion passed unanimously.

3. 171 West King Street: Major Modification Permanent Sign

P&Z Administrator Pearson said this was an application for a major modification of a sign. He told the size of the sign and the design of it. A picture showed the sign and

Board Member Wheeler said it is a modest sign and asked if this was the largest it could be and **P&Z Administrator Pearson** said it could be larger.

P&Z Administrator Pearson said this is in compliance with the UDO and staff recommends approval. They are not planning to add other signage. He believes the plan is to hang the sign from a chain, but the ARB thought it looked good on the post. There is no thought of putting up a pole sign. **Chairperson Rathore** suggested the ARB give a suggestion of putting a timeframe of when the sign could be put on a pole and **P&Z Administrator Pearson** said a timeline cannot be given.

Chairperson Rathore asked if they could make a recommendation on the color of the sign and all members thought it was very attractive.

Board Member Lefkowitz moved to approve the major modification permanent sign as presented; second by Board Member Wheeler. With no further discussion, the motion passed unanimously.

4. Strasburg Rescue Squad, 156 East Washington Street: Major Modification New Residential Accessory Structure

Board Member Poling said she would abstain from this discussion as she is a member of the Strasburg Volunteer Rescue Squad.

Mr. Richard Kleese was in attendance, representing the Sons of the Confederate Veterans, the owner of the Dosh House. **Mr. Kleese** said **Nick Racey** handles the Dosh House, but is on vacation. The Sons want the ARB to approve the building and they do not want the SVRS to not have a building.

Mr. Racey had drawn a plan showing their preference of where the building would be located, but would be fine with any of the locations. **Mr. Kleese** said where the plan shows the placement of the building, numbered 1 and 2, these do not really affect the view of the house; the third placement has some water issues, but it could go there.

Board Member Wheeler said **Mr. Kleese** had given some reservations of putting the building near the back of the building due to traffic. **Mr. Kleese** said that is true and putting it away from that would take the problem away. He said the ground is soft and the ground could be torn up.

Chairperson Rathore asked if the Sons had asked what the building would be used for and they haven't.

Mr. Jason Rush, representing SVRS, said the purpose is to get anything powered by gasoline out of the building. The building is heated by gas and he doesn't like to have the open gasoline in the building.

Board Member Massey said he thought he had seen where some of the locations weren't the property of the SVRS and it was said that is only in the front of the building.

Board Member Massey said the town is getting ready to spend a lot of money on the town lot. The Dosh House is one of the most significant buildings in the town. He suggested having a smaller building with a sloping roof. **P&Z Administrator Pearson** said he thought the building has already been purchased and Mr. Rush confirmed this.

Board Member Wheeler said the idea had been tossed around about moving the building to the parking spaces. This would be behind the Northern Virginia Daily building and **Chairperson Rathore** said the NVD uses this area and also said you don't want to move the building too far away.

Mr. Rush said it doesn't matter to the SVRS where it is put, but like location 1 or 2 best. The original plans showed it closer to the Dosh House, but **Mr. Rush** said it doesn't matter if it is moved forward.

Board Member Wheeler spoke about the view of the Dosh House being obstructed. **Chairperson Rathore** suggested taking a walk over to the area, but most didn't want to do this. **Mr. Kleese** said he doesn't think option 1 or 2 block the view of the Dosh House, but **Board Member Wheeler** said it will be intrusive. **Board Member Lefkowitz** said he thinks #2 is the least obtrusive. **Mr. Kleese** said you will be able to see the log building no matter where the building is located.

Board Member Kimmons moved to approve the major modification and have option 2 for the location of the building; second by **Board Member Lefkowitz**. With no further discussion, the motion passed with one nay (**Board Member Wheeler**) and one abstaining (**Board Member Poling**).

In further discussion, **P&Z Administrator Pearson** said one way to meet the criteria to become a Certified Local Government would be to join the National Trust for Historic Preservation or the Strasburg Heritage Association.

Chairperson Rathore asked about having a short class on historic reconstruction. **Board Member Massey** said he could do a short presentation that could show some of the changes that had been made in the town.

Various other topics were mentioned such as the tree which will be lost due to VDOT, the house on Holliday Street which is being restored using wood, and the marquee at the theatre. **Board Member Kimmons** asked about an intern and **P&Z Administrator Pearson** said if we get the designation, he will have a budget that can be used for this.

Being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:51 p.m.