

**ALGONQUIN HISTORIC COMMISSION
MINUTES FOR REGULAR MEETING**

March 12, 2025

7:00 PM

Held at Historic Village Hall – 2 South Main Street – Algonquin

CALL TO ORDER – ESTABLISH QUORUM

Present: Chairman Lewis and Members Donahue, Himes, Jolitz, Teuber, and Thompson.

**APPROVE MINUTES OF REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING OF FEBRUARY 12, 2025,
AND WORKSHOP MEETINGS OF FEBRUARY 15 AND 22, 2025**

Moved Chairman Lewis; Seconded Member Donahue.

Voice Vote: All Ayes. Minutes Approved.

PUBLIC COMMENT – AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

None.

PUBLIC HEARING

Public Hearing for Consideration of a Major Improvement in the Old Town District; Case No. HC-01-25, 9 Division Street for front deck and stair replacement – Applicant: James Daly.

Staff Presentation: Stephanie Barajas, Village Community Development Planner, presented the case on behalf of Village Staff. Ms. Barajas reported that James Daly, the Applicant and owner of the subject property located at 9 Division Street, applied for a Certificate of Appropriateness to replace the front deck and add new front stairs on the subject property. The proposed modifications would be in public view, are considered a “major improvement” under the Old Town District Preservation Code, and must be reviewed by the Historic Commission at a Public Hearing prior to the issuance of a Certificate of Appropriateness and Building Permit.

Ms. Barajas explained that the Applicant removed the prior front deck and constructed a new 14’-7” by 6’-8” deck in the same location on the subject property. According to the Applicant, the previous deck was unstable and a hazard. The Applicant used treated lumber for the supports on the new deck, composite deck boards, and turned spindles and square wooden posts for the deck and stair railings, and intends to install white vertical boards to enclose the bottom of the deck. The Applicant was contacted by staff to stop work immediately, however, and was notified that a Certificate of Appropriateness and building permit are required for the construction of such new accessory structures.

As the construction of a new auxiliary structure and the demolition of any structure are both considered a major alteration, Ms. Barajas acknowledged that the construction of the new deck is subject to the design guidelines of the Village of Algonquin Old Town

Preservation Code. Village Staff proposes that the square rail posts on the new deck be replaced with turned posts. Ms. Barajas also relayed that the Applicant will need to widen the stairs, add additional piers, and replace the railings on the stairs to be compliant with the building code. Village Staff supports the proposed modifications described in Petitioner's current application with all of these conditions.

Staff Recommendation: As noted, Village Staff recommends approval of the Certificate of Appropriateness with the conditions that the Applicant (1) obtain a building permit and comply with all applicable Village of Algonquin building code requirements, and (2) replace the square rail posts on the new deck with turned posts.

Petitioner's Comments

Petitioner Daly concurred with the Village Staff presentation, but stated that replacing the square deck posts with turned posts would be a difficult modification.

Commission Discussion

Member Jolitz voiced a preference for turned posts to be used in all locations on Applicant's porch, but proposed a compromise which would require turned posts at the bottom and top of the new stairs (which will need to be removed in any event to accomplish other required structural modifications), but allow square posts on the porch itself, provided the Applicant puts matching finials on top of all posts on the porch and stairs. Member Jolitz also inquired what materials will be used for skirting around the bottom of the porch. Although the Applicant intended to use vertical wooden slats, Member Jolitz voiced a preference for a framed lattice or other decorative skirting.

Motion

Motion by Member Donahue, seconded by Member Jolitz, that the Building Commissioner issue the requested Certificate of Appropriateness for Case No. HC-01-25, 9 Division Street for front deck replacement and new front stairs with the following conditions: (1) the Applicant shall replace the posts at the bottom and top of the new stairs with turned posts, and may retain the square posts on the porch itself, provided the Applicant puts matching finials on top of all posts on the porch and stairs; and (2) the Applicant shall surround the porch bottom with framed lattice or other decorative skirting. Chairman Lewis asked if there were any further questions or discussion needed on the project. There being none, a Roll Call Vote was taken. Roll Call Vote: All Ayes.

OLD BUSINESS

Members continued discussion of the planned new order for historic identification signs for homes/buildings in the Old Town District. As previously reported, approximately 225 mailings were sent to relevant property owners on February 4, 2025, notifying of the opportunity to order a new/replacement sign with a return date of March 14, 2025. Member Jolitz reported that about fifteen returns have been received so far, but some of those will require some details to be verified. Member Jolitz has also reached out to some other owners who may be interested in purchasing a sign but have not yet responded.

Members continued discussion of efforts to recruit new Commission volunteers/members. Members Jolitz, Teuber, and Donahue reported on a potential candidate who may be interested.

Members continued discussion of plans for a springtime Commission exhibit for the Main Village Hall display case and future exhibits for the Harnish Library and/or Main Village Hall display cases. An exhibit honoring over a hundred years of service to the community by Algonquin State Bank is planned for this spring in the Main Village Hall display case. Another exhibit remembering the 40th anniversary of the TWA hijacking may then be installed in the Harnish Library display case. And another exhibit celebrating the Congregational Church's 175th anniversary may be created for one display case or the other later this year.

Members were updated on Volunteer Krol's continuing efforts to digitize, enhance, and preserve audio files of Commission interviews of local longtime residents.

APPROVAL OF BILLS FOR PAYMENT

None.

NEW BUSINESS

Members Jolitz, Donahue, and Teuber reported on the February 20 Commission presentation to the St. John's Lutheran Church Senior Group. Eighteen visitors attended the presentation and then surveyed some of the Commission's artifacts afterward. Commission Members also provided the visitors with a list of historic artifacts and information that the Commission would be grateful to receive for its archives from community members who have items they wish to donate, and also advised the visitors on means of researching their family trees. Member Jolitz further relayed that the presentation was a great success, and that he has since received thanks from Cathy Zange, the organizer of the event, on behalf of all who attended.

Member Himes reported her progress on a new project creating an Excel index of the Applications for Certificates of Appropriateness acted on by the Commission over time.

CORRESPONDENCE, COMMENTS, AND OTHER BUSINESS

Member Jolitz relayed a phone call from a recent Certificate of Appropriateness recipient stating his intention to undertake a new project involving window replacements/modifications and seeking some information in advance.

Member Himes displayed samples of bricks she adorned with images of the buildings from which the bricks were originally taken. This is a much-appreciated revival of a project originally spearheaded by beloved former Commission Member and renowned local artist Marie Coleman. Thanks to Member Himes for continuing this tradition.

Members were reminded of upcoming Commission Workshops on March 15 and 22, 2025.

ADJOURNMENT

Member Jolitz moved, and Member Himes seconded, that the meeting be adjourned.
Meeting adjourned at 8:07 pm.

Secretary

Date Approved