

ALGONQUIN HISTORIC COMMISSION

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING

December 9, 2015

7:00 P.M.

CALL TO ORDER – ESTABLISH QUORUM

PRESENT: Chairman Jolitz, Member Purn, Member Adler, Member Thompson, and Member Nee, Member Koeppe.

ABSENT: Member Zange

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING NOVEMBER 11TH AND WORKSHOP MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 19TH AND S NOVEMBER 21ST: Moved by: Member Nee, Seconded by: Member Thompson, Voice Vote: All Ayes. Minutes Approved

PUBLIC HEARING FOR CONSIDERATION OF A MAJOR IMPROVEMENT IN THE OLD TOWN DISTRICT – CASE NO. PC-15-06 RE: 115 N. MAIN STREET.

Petitioner: Steve Gruner

Village: Chairman Jolitz

PRESENTATION BY VILLAGE:

Chairman Jolitz presented for the Village in Ben Mason's and Craig Arp's absence. Chairman Jolitz explained that Village Staff believes the proposed deck addition is compatible with the structure and consistent with the Preservation Code and recommends approval of a Certificate of Appropriateness. Petitioners had nothing to add to the Village presentation, and stated only that this improvement is an important part of their hope and effort to move their software design business to Algonquin from Elgin.

PRESENTATION BY PETITIONER:

Petitioners had nothing to add to the Village presentation.

DISCUSSION BY COMMISSION:

Chairman Jolitz inquired whether the columns depicted in the drawings submitted will be square or rounded. Petitioners stated that they are round in the drawings, but they may want to make them square. In either case, they want to keep the columns on pedestals. Otherwise, Petitioners intend to stay as true to the drawing as possible, including the turned balustrades. Member Nee noted that the balustrades would bring the building more in keeping with period of Old Town, consistent with the Historic District designs.

Chairman Jolitz inquired about the materials to be used for the deck, and Petitioners stated their hope / intention to use a traditional wood material like cedar, sealed or painted.

Petitioners inquired if they will need another Certificate of Appropriateness if they decide to do a paint finish rather than a stain & sealer. Chairman Jolitz explained that the Commission does not pass / approve on color schemes for paint or roofs, or for accent items like shutters, window boxes, etc.

Being no further comments, Chairman Jolitz called for a motion.

Member Purn moved that Commission issue a Certificate of Appropriateness regarding the rear deck addition consistent with Petitioner's submittal and the conditions listed on the Village's Staff Report. Motion seconded by Member Nee.

Chairman Jolitz repeated the Motion and opened the floor for any additional comments or questions by members or Petitioner. Petitioner indicated they are still trying to decide on the possible removal of a tree at the south end of the building. Member Nee stated the Motion is based on the project as presented with deck / porch to be balanced/centered across the building. Being no further comments, Chairman Jolitz called for a vote.

Vote: All Ayes. Absented: Member Adler who arrived at meeting at 7:15 pm as Hearing ended.

PUBLIC HEARING FOR CONSIDERATION OF A MAJOR IMPROVEMENT IN THE OLD TOWN DISTRICT – CASE NO. PC 15-07 RE: 102 CENTER STREET

Petitioner: Christine Coffman

Village: Chairman Jolitz

PRESENTATION BY VILLAGE:

Chairman Jolitz again presented for the Village in Ben Mason's and Craig Arp's absence. Petitioners are proposing to remove 7 windows on the home and garage, and an exposed wall furnace on the north side of the garage, all to be replaced with in-filled siding.

Chairman Jolitz explained that Village Staff supports removal of the windows in Figures 3 and 4 of Staff Report, on the rear of the home and the garage, which have limited visibility from the public right of way. Chairman Jolitz also explained that Village Staff further supports removing the window depicted in Figure 1, which the homeowner indicated is located in an awkward position within the kitchen.

PRESENTATION BY PETITIONER:

Petitioners had nothing to add to the Village presentation.

DISCUSSION BY COMMISSION:

Chairman Jolitz inquired if any of the windows to be removed are in a bathroom (which Petitioners confirmed), and mentioned the need for fitting bathrooms with an exhaust fan if such windows are removed.

Member Nee agreed with the Village Staff's recommendation regarding Figure 2 to allow removal of the wall furnace but retain the two windows on that side. Petitioner stated he would

like to remove the windows for security reasons, to prevent a line of sight into the garage that would expose his tools inside the garage to public view. Chairman Jolitz explained that these windows are necessary to retain the design of the house and garage, and aesthetically important to break up the massiveness of the structure, including the connected garage. And blend with the designs currently of the adjacent homes & garages, In addition to providing light in the garage especially since all the doors were without any glass in design. Members Nee & Thompson suggested the use simple curtains or shades for “visual security” into the garage.

Chairman Jolitz asked about the small window over the island kitchen sink depicted in Figure 1, and asked if Petitioners plan to install another window near that location to add some natural light to the kitchen. Petitioners confirmed that this window is located in the kitchen, but very high up on the wall in an odd location, and stated an intention to introduce more natural light into the kitchen by opening up the interior floor plan into the dining room, rather than add a new window at this time. Chairman Jolitz noted that Petitioners had room to add another kitchen near the location where the window in Figure 1 will be removed, but more conveniently placed, closer to the front corner of the room if they desire at a later time.

Chairman Jolitz stressed that, when the windows to be removed are filled in with siding, the siding should be random and feathered in, so the prior window “ silhouette” does not remain. Petitioners agreed to this request.

Chairman Jolitz inquired whether two garage windows to be retained would be replaced with new windows, and Petitioners said yes. Chairman then noted that any replaced windows must be “in kind” and of the same Size so the opening does not change, in the same Double Hung design.

Being no further comments, Chairman Jolitz called for a vote.

Member Thompson moved that Commission issue a Certificate of Appropriateness consistent with Petitioner’s submittal and the Village Staff’s recommendations to retain the two windows depicted in Figure 2 of the December 9, 2015 staff memorandum, with the further condition that the infilling of like siding where windows and the furnace will be removed will be random and feathered. Seconded by Member Purn. The Motion was repeated and Floor was opened for further discussion. Being no further comments a Vote was called; All Ayes.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION:

Hans Nelson, a member of the audience, introduced himself, and said he grew up in Algonquin has returned after 25 years in Phoenix and California. He explained that he is thinking of investing in some property on Main Street, and may be developing plans within the next few weeks to restore the exterior of, and possibly an addition to the two building located at 301 and 303 S. Main Street, and open a new restaurant/pub across from Cucina Bella. Mr. Nelson left Business cards for his business – Racketeers (RacketeersRestaurants.com), and conversed with various Commission members regarding the ongoing downtown Algonquin Streetscape plan. And his desire to incorporate an emphasis on the Village and Site History in any of his design plans for both any modifications to the building and its interior finishes and décor.

OLD BUSINESS

- A. Interview Project – Status Report: Member Purn was able to contact Dave Treadwell regarding scheduling an interview and is attempting to schedule a time when all three (3) brothers are available. Interview will be conducted at Dave's home. Member Purn has been having difficulty contacting people due to the holiday season.
- B. Preparation of New Exhibits: Commission began working on new display exhibit during the last workshop. Exhibit will feature some of the products "Made in Algonquin" 1890 – 1960. Member Purn has created photos for the new display. Chairman Jolitz requested that the Commission locate the dates (years) of operation, etc. for the exhibited businesses and find additional information regarding the history and descriptions of the local business. Commission is aiming for creation of the display in late January or early February. The Commission intends to prepare a new display for Village Hall once the new exhibit for the Library is finished.

APPROVAL OF BILLS FOR PAYMENT:

- A. No bills were presented for approval and/or payment.

NEW BUSINESS


- A. Preparation of Budget For Fiscal Year - May 2016 to April 2017
- Chairman Jolitz stated that the Commission currently had a very lean budget (for year ending April 2015) as the Commission down from higher expenses in 2014, including the re-printing walking tours brochures and the purchasing of the Commission's archiving software. Commission is requested to consider possible items or events which need to be included in 2016-2017 budget. The new budget is due in January.
 - The Commission discussed moving forward with purchasing a digital camera as was included in the current 2015-2016 year budget.

CORRESPONDENCE

- Member Nee received an email from Library (Sarah Marie) regarding possible donation to the Commission of old Algonquin real estate listing by Phillip Mohr from Des Plaines Historical Commission. The Commission expressed interest in obtaining the listings. Member Nee will make contact.

ADJOURNMENT

Member Nee moved that the meeting be adjourned. The motion was seconded by Member Thompson. Voice Vote: All Ayes. Meeting adjourned at 8:53 pm.


Secretary

1-13-16
Date Approved