

**ALGONQUIN HISTORIC COMMISSION**

**MINUTES FOR REGULAR**

**MEETING**

**MAY 11, 2022**

**7:00 PM**

**Held at Village Hall 2200 Harnish Drive – Algonquin**

**Call to order – Establish Quorum –**

Present: Patrick Knapp, Senior Village Planner, Chairman Jolitz and Members Dombrowski, Himes, Thompson, and Wyskochil.

**Approve Minutes of Regular Business Meeting of April 13, 2022 and Workshop Meetings April 16 and 23, 2022.**

Moved Member Dombrowski; Seconded Member Himes

Voice Vote: All Ayes. Minutes Approved.

**AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION – PUBLIC COMMENT**

None

**PUBLIC HEARING:**

Public Hearing for Consideration of a Major Improvement in the Old Town District; Case No. HC-06-22, 407 La Fox River Dr. for replacement of siding on home. Applicant: Cerasi Renovations for Katherine Kruse (owner).

**STAFF PRESENTATION**

Applicant Cerasi Renovations for owner Katherine Kruse applied for a Certificate of Appropriateness for new vinyl siding on a single-family dwelling. The applicant proposes to replace the existing eight-inch aluminum siding with five-inch wood grain vinyl siding.

**Recommendation**

Staff has reviewed the applicant's request and believes the proposed improvement meets the intent of the Historic Preservation Code and will improve the historical character of the property. Staff therefore recommends approval of the Certificate of Appropriateness with the conditions that the applicant obtain a building permit and comply with applicable building codes.

**PETITIONER'S COMMENTS**

None

**COMMISSION DISCUSSION**

Member Himes asked if the current trim and soffits will remain, and the applicant explained that they will be retained in order to maintain their current color, and all current trim will remain; only the siding is being replaced. The applicant also explained that the only change will be the use of a

five-inch reveal, which Member Jolitz explained is more historically appropriate than the current eight-inch reveal siding. Member Himes also asked if the garage will be re-sided as well, and the applicant explained that it will be re-sided, as it is attached.

#### **MOTION:**

Motion by Member Himes, seconded by Member Wyskochil, that the Building Commissioner issue the requested Certificate of Appropriateness for Case No. HC-06-22, 407 La Fox River Dr. for replacement of siding on home and attached garage with new five-inch vinyl siding with current trim to be retained. Chairman Jolitz asked if there were any further questions or discussion on the project. There being none, a Roll Call was taken. Roll Call Vote: All Ayes.

#### **OLD BUSINESS**

The Commission welcomed return of former Member Patty Jo Thompson.

#### **APPROVAL OF BILLS FOR PAYMENT**

None

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

Presentation by Mr. Steve Konters of Hitchcock Design Group regarding a concept plan for the proposed restoration of the historic Mineral Spring site in Towne Park: Mr. Konters presented a concept plan for refurbishment of the bench and concrete steps and the Mineral Spring site, a new concrete wayfinding path leading to the site from the Jefferson Street entrance to Towne Park with appropriate signage and a water fountain at that location, two signage displays at the Mineral Spring site with interpretative and historical information, appropriate drainage leading from the site to the creek, and replacement of the current cap on the spring.

Member Dombrowski asked about the possibility of a flagstone or paver wayfinding path, rather than concrete, which Mr. Konters explained would be less expensive but present higher maintenance and accessibility issues. Chairman Jolitz noted that in addition to appropriate drainage for the site generally, the new cap would also require an outlet (pipe/drain) from the cap itself for the active spring, and not be sealed completely around. Member Thompson asked if the missing bench arm would be restored, and if the new cap can be redesigned in a manner more historically appropriate and aesthetically pleasing. Mr. Konters confirmed that the bench arm will be restored and proposals are being submitted for a redesign of the cap that are more appropriate and attractive for the site and will be included in the concept plan. Commission Members suggested possible cap designs incorporating a replica of a historic pumping fixture or Victorian planter on the cap. Member Wyskochil asked about the possibility of completing the project concurrently with the planned renovation of the Jefferson Street entrance to Towne Park, and Assistant Village Manager, Mr. Mike Kumbera, explained that efforts are being made to complete the projects concurrently to promote efficiencies. Chairman Jolitz explained that the area behind the bench at the Mineral Spring site has been raised over time, causing a problem with silt and mud flowing down onto bench, and asked if a short retaining wall behind the bench is being considered to address that erosion, rather than simply including plantings which may not mitigate that problem. Messrs. Konters and Kumbera and Village Recreation Superintendent, Ms. Katie Gock, confirmed that while the current concept plan does not include a retaining wall, one can be added to address that issue.



Chairman Jolitz asked about the location and content of the signage at the Mineral Spring site, and Mr. Konters explained that two signs will be located at opposite sides of the Mineral Spring site providing room for appropriate historic and interpretative information sufficient to accommodate historic photographs of the spring (space permitting, the signage will also include historic information and photographs of the park as well), whereas any additional signage located at the wayfinding path closer to Jefferson Street will be directional only leading toward the Mineral Spring site. Chairman Jolitz and Member Himes asked about the possible use of stamped and stained cement for construction of the wayfinding path, and Mr. Konters explained that may be considered; however, these typically require higher maintenance and are less durable over time. Given those concerns, Commission Members further suggested the use of at least paver borders on both sides of the wayfinding concrete path (similar to Main Street and the Clock Tower at Cornish Park) to give it a more historic character. Member Wyskochil asked about the possibility of grant funding for restoration of the site given its historic character, and Ms. Gock and Mr. Kumbera explained that efforts are being made to pursue as much grant funding for the project as possible. Members were very pleased with the concept plan in general, the two entrances to the spring site, the two signage placements at the site, and the wayfinding path leading to the site.

President of the Algonquin Garden Club, Ms. Janice Slonkey, was present and endorsed the concept plan for the restoration of the Mineral Spring site consistent with the foregoing discussion. She further advised that if a planter and/or planting area is included on or near the redesigned cap or site, the Garden Club would be pleased to resume once again providing and maintaining annual plantings for the planter and/or site.

Both Historic Commission Members and Janice Slonkey indicated they were very happy that the Mineral Spring site is finally getting the attention it deserves and residents have been asking about for nearly 20 years. We all agreed it is perhaps likely the most Historic Site in our Village.

**MOTION:** Based on the foregoing discussion, Member Jolitz moved, and Member Himes seconded, for the Commission's acceptance of the preliminary concept plan for restoration of the Mineral Spring site as presented, with the additions of the retaining wall, decorative cap with appropriate drainage, and possible use of paver borders or stamped and stained cement for the wayfinding path as discussed. Voice Vote: All Ayes.

#### **CORRESPONDENCE, COMMENTS, AND OTHER BUSINESS:**

No other new business.

Correspondence; Chairman Jolitz relayed that a visitor is expected to attend one of this month's workshops to research certain family history questions, also that a possible new volunteer may attend one or both workshops.

#### **ADJOURNMENT:**

Member Dombrowski moved, and Member Himes seconded, that the meeting be adjourned. Meeting adjourned at 8:15 pm.

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Secretary

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Date Approved