

**Minutes of the
New Bern Historic Preservation Commission
May 18, 2011**

The New Bern Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) held its regular meeting on Wednesday, May 18, 2011, in the second floor courtroom of City Hall, 300 Pollock Street.

Members Present: Jack Morton, Jr., Chairman Richard Parsons
Peter Adolph, Vice-chair Peggy Broadway
Rich Frye Karen Britton

Members Excused/Absent: Bradley Cummins; Johnny Harrison

Staff Present: Michael Avery, AICP, Planning and Inspections Director
Lorraine DiBella, staff

The meeting was opened and roll call was taken. A quorum was present. Commissioner Adolph moved, Commissioner Parsons seconded and the Commission agreed to waive the reading of minutes for the April 20 regular meeting and the May 4 special called meeting. Minutes were unanimously approved with motion and second by Commissioner Adolph and Commissioner Britton. Witnesses were sworn in.

Witnesses Sworn: Bob Siegendorf, Abby Ford, Stevie Bennett, Jennifer Knight and others.

Staff Michael Avery stated that the second agenda item had been withdrawn by the applicant, specifically an application for a Certificate of Appropriateness for proposed exterior alterations/renovations and new construction at 205 King Street. The application will be heard at a later time.

New Business

- 1. Consider application for a Certificate of Appropriateness for 505 Middle Street, owned by Temple B'Nai Sholem, for replacement of an existing concrete walk.**

Staff Comments: Michael Avery gave an overview of the application, stating the applicant desires to replace a deteriorating concrete walkway with brick pavers. It is similar to work recently performed at First Presbyterian. The pavers are a gray-tan color. The affected space is less than 100 square feet.

Applicant Comments: Bob Siegendorf, 1062 Windward Drive, New Bern, representing the Temple, said this is the last task in a long list of recent renovations to the property.

Public Comments: NONE

Discussion by the Commission: Commissioner Parsons asked if the dimensions are the same as existing walkway (yes). Commissioner Broadway asked if the pavers are typical for the neighborhood (yes). The color was briefly discussed.

Finding(s) of Fact: Commissioner Parsons moved to find the application congruous with the Historic Preservation Guidelines, citing Section 15-427 Certificate of Appropriateness required; Section 15-429 Review Criteria, citing the following guidelines: “Accessibility and Life Safety”, pages 41-42. Commissioner Britton seconded the motion. Upon a call for a vote, all Commissioners voted in favor of the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Statement(s) of Reason: The work will enhance accessibility and life safety by improving a primary walking surface.

Condition(s): NONE

Motion: Commissioner Parsons moved to issue the COA, seconded by Commissioner Adolph. All Commissioners voted in favor of the motion.

2. Consider application for a Certificate of Appropriateness for 402 Avenue C, owned by Abby Ford, to install a roof on an arbor and screen in a deck.

Staff Comments: Mr. Avery explained that staff approved a minor application for replacement in-kind of an existing deck, with an additional 5 feet. Applicant is now requesting to add a poly carbonate roof and screen-in the deck. He referred the Commission to a sketch of the back yard and photos that Ms. Ford submitted with her application.

Applicant Comments: Abby Ford testified the rear deck was deteriorating and had to be replaced entirely. Five additional feet of deck was added. She desires to use the poly carbonate roofing material to give the room light and air. It will be a low-pitched roof, not visible from the street right of way.

Public Comments: *Stevie Bennett*, 1312 National Avenue, stated she disagrees that the roof would not be visible from the street; she stated the left side of the house is visible from Avenue C and the back is entirely visible from N. Pasteur Street. She asked to see a sample of the roofing material. On seeing the diagram and specs, she stated she does not consider it appropriate to the neighborhood.

Mrs. Ford countered that the roof is too high to be seen from Pasteur and trees obscure the view on the left side. She offered to use black rubber if the Commission prefers.

Discussion by the Commission: Commissioner Parsons asked for clarification on the stage of the process, what is existing and what is planned. Ms. Ford referenced the photos and explained.

It was noted that no other homes in the area use the poly carbonate (corrugated). The appropriateness of the roofing material was discussed with Commissioner Parsons saying he would prefer to see a white rubber roof. Ms. Ford agreed to use a white rubber roof.

Finding(s) of Fact: Commissioner Frye moved to find the application congruous with the Historic Preservation Guidelines, citing Section 15-427 Certificate of Appropriateness required; Section 15-429 Review Criteria, citing the following guidelines: "Additions for Historic Buildings", pages 69-70, and "Decks on Historic Buildings", page 71. Commissioner Parsons seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Statement(s) of Reason: (1) The bulk of the improvements consist of a replacement of an existing deck/arbor which meets the "in kind" test.

Condition(s): (1) The poly carbonate roofing material is not allowed. Applicant agrees to use a standard white rubber sealed roof.

Motion: Commissioner Parsons moved to issue the COA, seconded by Commissioner Adolph. The motion carried unanimously.

Old Business

- 1. Consider amending Certificate of Appropriateness for 300 Pollock Street (Heritage Park), owned by the City of New Bern, to include details of pool construction & installation.**

Staff Comments: NONE

Applicant Comments: Applicant Jennifer Knight returned with details on the reflecting pool. She referenced a drawing and stated some measurements are missing. Specifically, there is an overhang. The cap has relief of 3"; the granite is 18" wide and the wall is 12" wide, leaving a centered relief of 3" on either side.

Public Comments: NONE

Discussion by the Commission: The Commissioners had no questions or comments on the reflecting pool diagram. They cited Historic Preservation Guidelines "Parks & Public Spaces", page 81, regarding the appropriateness of the art work that will be placed inside the pool and requested that it be brought to the Commission for review when decided upon.

Motion: Commissioner Parsons moved to find the application congruous with the Historic Preservation Guidelines; Commissioner Broadway seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Condition(s): (1) The Applicant must return to the Historic Preservation Commission for approval of the art work that will be placed inside the pool in accordance with the Historic Preservation Guidelines.

Motion: Commissioner Parsons moved to amend the COA to include the reflecting pool. Commissioner Adolph seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

It was agreed that new officers (chair and co-chair) would be decided at the next regular meeting.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned.

Jack Morton, Jr., Chairman

Michael Avery, AICP
Planning and Inspections Director