

TOWN COUNCIL
Historic District Review Board
Work Session
January 25, 2006
4:00 p.m.

At approximately 4:12 p.m. on January 25, 2006 in the Town Council Chambers, Mayor Frank Lewis called the joint Work Session of the Cape Charles Town Council and the Cape Charles Historic District Review Board to order. In addition to Mayor Lewis present were Dora Sullivan, Larry Veber, Jim Davis, Bruce Evans, and Gerald Elliott; absent was Charles “Sambo” Brown; Historic District Review Board Chairman Russ Dunton, called to order members Melvin Dudley and Jan Neville; absent was Dianne Davis. Also present were Planning Commissioners Karen Jolly Davis, Eileen Cobb, and Joan Natali, Town Manager Tim Krawczel, Town Planner Jason Pruitt, Town Building Commissioner Doug Smith, and Town Clerk Joy Pelletier

Business

Demolition by Neglect

The meeting was turned over to Doug Smith who outlined the goals of this meeting as: 1) approve the proposed Building Department Violation Abatement Policy; 2) make funds available to execute the policy; 3) approve the use of the Town legal resources for pursuing Building Code violations; 4) approve the use of the Town legal resources for pursuing Zoning violations.

Mr. Smith made note that the first and foremost activity was to address health and safety issues by covering the open spaces of the structure to keep weather and animals from entering. Secondary to this activity would then be to preserve the historic property from further neglect and deterioration. He made it clear the proposed policy does not attempt to “make things pretty” but just close the structure to prevent further damage. Mr. Smith expressed that the intention of the proposal is not to demolish structures, but try to protect and preserve them.

Mr. Smith had prepared a pictorial gallery of neglected properties which were reviewed and discussed.

Town Manager Tim Krawczel restated the recommendations for clarity: 1) exhaust all notice requirements in the ordinance; 2) initiate legal proceedings; get a date on the court docket; 3) stabilize the property once we know people are going to court. Mr. Krawczel emphasized the importance of being consistent and fair in following the guidelines for every property.

Motion made by James Davis, seconded by Gerald Elliott and unanimously approved to adjourn the Town Council Session of the meeting.

Motion made by Jan Neville, seconded by Melvin Dudley and unanimously approved to adjourn the Historic District Review Board Session of the meeting.

Town Clerk

Mayor

Chairman HDRB