

Historic District Review Board

Regular Session

March 21, 2006

4:30 P.M.

At approximately 4:30 p.m. on March 21, 2006 in Town Council Chambers, Chairman Russ Dunton called to order the regular session of the Historic District Review Board. In addition to Chairman Dunton, also present were Jan Neville, Dianne Davis, Melvin Dudley and Bob Sellers. Also present were Town Planner Jason Pruitt, Town Clerk Joy Pelletier and 2 members of the Public.

An Invocation was led by Dianne Davis and all recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Motion made by Melvin Dudley, seconded by Jan Neville and unanimously approved to accept the agenda as modified by moving New Business ahead of Old Business.

Motion made by Dianne Davis, seconded by Melvin Dudley and unanimously approved to accept the minutes of February 21, 2006 as modified.

Motion made by Melvin Dudley, seconded by Jan Neville and unanimously approved to accept the minutes of February 28, 2006 as presented.

Old Business

A. Preserving Historic Landmarks – Rosenwald School

Melvin Dudley indicated the property owner was not interested in having the property named as a historic landmark nor is she interested in the property being added to the Historic Overlay. It was his contention that the Town's Commissions and Boards involve as much as the community as possible to combat the issue. Mr. Pruitt reported he had taken the proposal to the Planning Commission and had contacted the property owner once again. He confirmed the property owner was not interested in having the property declared a historic landmark due to "strings attached". Chairman Dunton agreed it was not a win-win situation for the property owner because it would cause her to keep the building in repair. In researching the other communities that may have been in the same situation, Mr. Pruitt found that the owner could ~~put~~ apply for (4-18-06) a demolition ~~order~~ permit (4-18-06) or make a (4-18-06) takings claim. Melvin Dudley indicated an E-mail had been sent to Oprah Winfrey to see if she would be able to assist us in saving the school. Discussion extended to Rosenwald Schools in general. Mr. Pruitt indicated he had contacted several agencies looking for grant money. He reported that in most instances any grant funds would be a matching program; therefore the Town would have to be willing to

participate in a significant monetary way. Mr. Pruitt stated the DHR had suggested in order to garner support, a Public Hearing could be held on the School in general. It was also suggested to contact Dr. Art Carter for information on sources of funding.

B. Historic District Demolition Regulations – Zoning Ordinance Section 8.21

Jason Pruitt stated this item was for information, only. He described the ordinance as it presently stood and detailed the proposed revisions which included the following: The applicant must file a statement with Zoning Administrator to start the required sale period; the property must be appraised twice to determine the fair market value of the property; if the two appraisals differ by more than 10% the applicant must pay for a third appraisal; the sale price can also be challenged by a petition of property owners. Mr. Pruitt went on to say the Planning Commission would hold a public hearing on April 4, 2006 at 7:00 pm. Chairman Dunton reported that this issue was initiated by the Planning Commission, not the Historic District Review Board, but that the HDRB had no objection to the changes.

C. Trees in the Historic District – Zoning Ordinance Section 8.18 A

Mr. Pruitt briefed the Board on the Recessed Session held by the Planning Commission in which they recommended deleting the word significant tree. Chairman Dunton described the ad hoc Tree Committee and the completed research. He stated that one member of the committee had surveyed the public right of ways through out Town and the committee was ~~not~~ (4-18-06) researching the appropriate trees to plant. A brief discussion was held.

New Business

A. 227 Tazewell Ave. – Andy Edmunds – Addition to existing structure

Mr. Edmunds was represented by architect Leon Parham who had provided an updated drawing that showed a slight modification in adding a door to the rear addition of the house. Chairman Dunton confirmed the original weatherboard was to be used on the old portion of the house with the addition being covered in hardiplank.

Motion to accept the application as presented made by Jan Neville, seconded by Melvin Dudley and unanimously approved.

B. 501 Tazewell Ave. – Katherine Veber – Addition to existing structure

Katherine Veber presented the application. She wanted to replicate the peak that is on the house in order to be consistent with the main structure and to add height to the addition. Ms. Veber mentioned the siding on the existing structure is asbestos shingle. To again compliment the original look, she said she planned on using some sort of shingle to side the addition. Chairman Dunton asked about the roof and suggested standing seam as that sort of roof is repeated through out the town. Ms. Veber indicated the foundation would be entirely rebuilt in brick. Also brought to the discussion was using a Victorian oval window on the addition.

Motion made by Melvin Dudley, seconded by Dianne Davis and unanimously approved to accept the application as amended to have hardiplank shingle, standing seam roof, brick foundation and Victorian oval window.

Announcements

- A. Waterfront Design Guidelines and Master Plan Public Input Session
March 28, 2006, 6:30pm to 9:00pm, at the Historic Palace Theatre*

Chairman Dunton asked for input from those who had attended the last Sessions. Melvin Dudley reviewed with the Board the outcome to date. He said the consensus of the group of citizens was to keep the old Cape Charles School for the Library and for community oriented events and to build a Municipal Building in the area behind the Rosenwald School.

Jan Neville reported on the School Feasibility Study. It was further discussed the consultants may suggest moving the basket ball court and the existing playground to accommodate additional parking for the proposed Municipal Building

B. Town Council Retreat – HDRB Work Session – Renovations to School

March 30, 2006, 1:00pm to 2:45pm, at Cobb Island Station

Mr. Pruitt explained the consultants would be reporting on the feasibility of renovating the old Cape Charles School and the Council would like the Historic District Review Board to be present.

Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Dianne Davis, seconded by Melvin Dudley and unanimously approved.

Chairman

Town Clerk