

Historic District Review Board

Regular Session

September 18, 2007

4:30 P.M.

At approximately 4:30 p.m. in the Town Council chambers, Chairman Russ Dunton called to order the Regular Session of the Historic District Review Board. In addition to Chairman Dunton, present were, Dianne Davis, and Melvin Dudley. Bob Sellers arrived at approximately 5:00 p.m. Jan Neville was absent. Also present were Town Planner Tom Bonadeo and Town Clerk Joy Pelletier.

Melvin Dudley led the Invocation and all recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Motion made by Dianne Davis, seconded by Dianne Davis and unanimously approved to accept the agenda as presented.

Motion made by Dianne Davis seconded by Melvin Dudley and unanimously approved to accept the minutes as presented.

Old Applications

None

New Applications

A. 519 Mason Ave., Rear Addition Laundry Room

Tom Bonadeo pointed out that in 1910 there was a "shed kitchen" until a chimney fire destroyed it. Russ Dunton explained the additions to the back are typical of Cape Charles structures.

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


Other Business

Tom stated he had an inquiry from the current owners of the old Russell's Furniture Store. The owners had been pressed by the Town Code Officials to abate building violations. He explained the owners would replace the windows using the existing openings, save front door rather than replacing it, and replace the existing siding with sheeting and vinyl. Mr. Bonadeo mentioned the last application submitted for this property (April, 2006) had expired, so a new application should be submitted. He then asked in light of time factors if the Board would like to delegate to him the authority of approval of an application.

Motion made by Melvin Dudley, seconded by Dianne Davis and unanimously approved to allow Tom Bonadeo to move forward on the application for 510 Plum St. without bringing the completed application forward to the board with the condition the modifications to the structure meet all written guidelines.

A short discussion of how Portsmouth's historic district took place. Chairman Dunton explained there had been a number of law suits filed against the City for non approval of modifications to contributing structures using modern materials. In light of the lawsuits, the approval authority had been taken away from the Historic Board and given to the City's Planning Department staff.

Motion made by Melvin Dudley, seconded by Dianne Davis and unanimously approved to adjourn the Regular Session of the Historic District Review Board..


Town Clerk


Chairman