

City of Lewisburg
Historic Landmarks Commission
Meeting Minutes ~ August 9, 2021
942 Washington Street West, Lewisburg, WV
Paul R. Cooley Council Chambers

PRESENT: Commission Chair David Craddock, Commissioners Paul Lindquist, William Deegans, Donna Johns, Clifford Gillian, Planning and Zoning Officer Marsha Cunningham, and Recorder Sarah Richardson.

ABSENT: None

VISITORS: City Manager Misty Hill, Mayor Beverly White, Architect Jerry Janiga, Jane Olson (via ZOOM), Paul Skorich and Debi Wardlow, and Matthew with People's Bank (via ZOOM).

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 5 p.m. by Commission Chair David Craddock.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The minutes of the *July 12, 2021* meeting were approved with a motion from Commissioner Clifford Gillian and a second from Donna Johns. With all in favor, the motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

Public Hearing: People's Bank: 1085 Washington Street East ~ Sign Application

Matthew, a representative for People's Bank, presented for approval a sign application as Premier Bank prepares to transition to People's Bank at the 1085 Washington Street East location. The illuminated signs will be elevated over the entrances to the bank. When asked about the rest of the bank's signs not addressed in the application, the representative said those signs will be changed, as well. Chair Craddock asked if they intended to submit another application to cover the additional signs, with the representative responding "yes, if we need one."

Commission member Paul Lindquist asked if they were intending to add another sign on the "tower part" which was met with a "yes." Commission member William Deegans noted they are already over the permitted sign footage area, and had to get a variance. He isn't sure as to if "they need to start all over again," since they are just replacing two signs.

A motion to approve the application as presented as presented was made by Commission member Paul Lindquist with a second by Commission Donna Johns. With all in favor, the motion carried.

After further discussion, the commission realized there is currently no "tower sign," so it would be considered a new sign instead of an updated sign. Zoning Officer Marsha Cunningham said another application would be needed for that sign with the intended sign and more information before it can be approved.

A motion of reconsideration to approve the existing sign and have the other sign be considered at a later date was made by Commission member Paul Lindquist with a second by Donna Johns. With all in favor, the motion carried.

Public Hearing: Paul Detch: 283 Lee Street ~ Rebuild Front Porch and Steps

This item was moved to the end of the agenda pending representation.

Public Hearing: Jane Olson: 205 Lee Street 4' High Pine Fence to Enclose Backyard

Commission member William Deegans asked if the fencing would be painted, with Jane Olson responding yes, white. The wood must dry first for several months before it can be painted.

A motion to approve the application as presented was made by Commission member Donna Johns with a second from Commission member Paul Lindquist. With all in favor, the motion carried.

Public Hearing: David Craddock: 1635 Washington Street East ~ Install a 12' x 10' wooden shed on existing pad, Navaho White in color with White-White trim and Charcoal metal roof

This item was moved to the end of the agenda.

Public Hearing: Paul Skorich: 1423 Washington Street East ~ Replace rotten fascia boards, paint exterior, add double columns on pedestals with railing and balusters to the porch. Add wooden shutters (color to be determined) repair front door. The fallen exterior in the back will be replaced with an open air patio supported by double columns and pedestals similar to the front

Paul Skorich and Debi Wardlow approached the commission about projects which he said “the main goal is to keep the house as intact as possible” with minimal new construction other than upgrading the porch. He said he has been searching for old photos of the house and will continue to do research. After much discussion of their house plans, the commission noted Michael Mills would be a good reference for this sort of project. Commission member William Deegans recommends the homeowners speak with Mills before progress is made as “he is pretty familiar with the house.” Mills has “some reservations about it, your plans at this point,” according to Deegans.

A motion to permit the painting of the house (white) and the trim, the demolition of the back portion of the house, removal of rotten fascia boards was made by Commission member Paul Lindquist and seconded by Commission member Donna Johns. With all in favor, the motion carried.

Public Hearing: Court and Stratton LLC Unit 5: Proposed façade renovations. Remove and replace existing storefront, relocate existing door, paint Washington Blue, new concrete storefront exposed foundation system. All wood will be Sapele with clear polyurethane finish

Jerry Janiga with Janiga Architects is representing this project, and approached the commission to note this application is a “modified design” of a previously approved design that has already been approved by the commission. He noted this is version is “taking elements from the original design” but this version deals with water draining issues coming from Court Street down the sidewalk.

A motion to approve the project as presented was made by Commission member Clifford Gillian with a second from Commission member Donna Johns. With all in favor, the motion carried.

Public Hearing: Paul Detch: 283 Lee Street ~ Rebuild Front Porch and Steps

With a lack of other representation, Zoning Officer Marsha Cunningham said that Paul Detch wishes to use composite wood that looks like real wood to replace the “unsafe” porch. He will have to wait to paint, and no color has been chosen yet. The flooring will be a mid-tone brown when installed.

A motion to approve the project as presented was made by Commission member Clifford Gillian with a second from Commission member Paul Lindquist. With all in favor, the motion carried.

Public Hearing: David Craddock: 1635 Washington Street East ~ Install a 12' x 10' wooden shed on existing pad, Navaho White in color with White-White trim and Charcoal metal roof

Commission member David Craddock recused himself from the motion made for this agenda item.

Craddock explained that he wishes to move a “pre-fab” storage unit onto the back portion of his property. A 12 foot wide by 10 foot deep storage building in a beige shade will be his temporary storage solution until he constructs a garage. “There was something there at one point, there is a concrete pad in the back that is approximately 10x10,” said Craddock.

A motion to approve the application as presented by made by Commission member Clifford Gillian with a second by Commission member Paul Lindquist. With four (4) in favor and one (1) recused (Commission member David Craddock), the motion was approved.

COMMENTS from the COMMISSIONERS: Commission member Donna Johns noted that Dr. Rose “rethought” the color for the house on Lee Street he is redoing, and wanted to change yellow to white, and leave green as green. Zoning Officer Cunningham noted they would have to submit an application due to the change, but they didn’t want to wait a month. Johns was wondering if since white was the original home color and is a “normal” color, if a change request even needed to be filed or if the Commission could approve it “administratively.” Bylaws state “any change” requires approval currently. After discussion, the Commission said they had no issue with the white itself, but the bylaws stand.

COMMENTS from the ZONING OFFICER: Planning and Zoning Officer Marsha Cunningham reports that “the big white house behind the post office” was bought, and they are asking if they can install a generator in the front yard. They wish to place it behind some bushes. They wish to place it at the front, but to the side of the porch. Commission member William Deegans noted that if the bushes die it would expose the generator. Zoning Officer Cunningham said she will check on the setbacks. Cunningham also said the homeowners said they would obscure the unit with lattice. The homeowners will submit an application for this project for the next meeting.

Cunningham also reported that consultant Michael Mills will be back from vacation soon to work on HLC guidelines with signmakers and contractors. There will be several meetings. Cunningham reports that Mills he is working on wayfinding signs to be placed around Lewisburg. They will contain directions and an online link to grow with the city. Once it’s developed it will come before HLC.

Mayor Beverly White noted that she asked the Board of Realtors to tell clients buying in the historic district to check with the HLC as to what they can and can’t do before buying a home to make things go smoothly between homeowners and the city.

Cunningham mentioned that businesses at Montwell Commons are using “yard sale” style signs. She emphasizes that it’s important for the city to be consistent. She said she collected five signs around town, City of Lewisburg

and then four more the next day. Cunningham said the information on the “yard sale” signs should be on the permitted signs at the commons. “We don’t want to lose the feeling of Lewisburg with an abundance of signs,” noted City Manager Misty Hill. Cunningham noted these signs were extra ones and not discussed with the Board of Zoning Appeals. Hill added with excess signs, ADA accessibility can become an issue when dealing with signs on sidewalks. She reported that when she and Mayor White attended a Municipal League conference Lewisburg’s Historic District had good feedback.

Commission member Paul Lindquist recommended changing the application due date from August 27, 2021 to September 3, 2021 for the next meeting. Zoning Officer Cunningham said she would check the bylaws.

The next meeting is scheduled for September 20, 2021 at 5 p.m. with a deadline of Friday, August 27, 2021. A “working holiday” of Labor Day on Monday, September 6, means the HLC meeting falls on September 20.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 6:22 p.m. in a motion by Commission member Paul Lindquist with a second from Commission member Skip Deegans.

Respectfully submitted,
Sarah Richardson
Recording Officer