

City of Lewisburg
Historic Landmarks Commission Regular Session and Public Hearings
Meeting Minutes — February 13, 2023, 5:00 p.m.
942 Washington Street West, Lewisburg, WV
Paul L. Cooley Council Chambers

PRESENT: Chairperson David Craddock; Commissioners Donna Johns, William Deegans and Clifford Gillilan; Planning and Zoning Officer Marsha Cunningham; HLC consultant Michael Mills; Recording Officer Tina Alvey

ABSENT: Commissioner Paul Lindquist

VISITORS: Linda Whaley (via telephone), Gary Ford, Jean Patton, Robin Stente, Thomas Kilionsko, Coleman Kuhn, Ben Long, Bruce and Cyndee Stapp

CALL TO ORDER: Meeting was called to order at 5 p.m. by Chairperson David Craddock.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Commissioner Clifford Gillilan moved approval of the minutes of the November 14, 2022, meeting, seconded by Commissioner Donna Johns. The motion was approved 4-0, with Commissioner Paul Lindquist absent.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC: None.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS: Gillilan made a motion to continue in 2023 with David Craddock as chairperson and William Deegans as vice chairperson. Commissioner Donna Johns seconded the motion, which was approved 4-0, with Lindquist absent.

***Public Hearing:** City of Lewisburg Confederate Cemetery, McElhenney Road. Request has been made by the West Virginia Division, United Daughters of the Confederacy, for permission to place an iron cross on the Confederate mass grave..*

Craddock pointed out that there is some “confusion” about the ownership of the Confederate Cemetery. He said trustees were appointed in the 1970s to oversee the property, but in subsequent years all of the appointees died and were not replaced. The city has maintained the cemetery for many years.

Attending the meeting via telephone, UDC member Linda Whaley informed the commissioners that her organization plans to hold a ceremony at the Confederate Cemetery on April 22 during which the iron cross would be placed on the property, if permission were granted.

Johns made a motion to table the UDC’s request pending further research on the cemetery’s ownership. Deegans seconded the motion, which carried on a 4-0 vote, with Lindquist absent.

***Public Hearing:** Ben and Savannah Long, 491 Church Street. Add a paved driveway on the south end of property on Court Street.*

Applicant Ben Long told commissioners that his home currently has no driveway, a situation that had driven out two previous owners of the property. He said he has two young children and on-street parking presents a safety issue. He added that he is aware he will have to put in a retaining wall for structural reasons and shrubbery to “make it look nice.” There is a gas line and manhole involved in the proposed path of the driveway.

Deegans noted the front of the house features limestone as a construction material and asked Long if he intends to use a similar rock on this addition. Long said he wants to match the materials as closely as possible but will probably have to pave the driveway with asphalt due to the elevation. HLC consultant Michael Mills said that, at some point in the application process, the applicant will need to present drawings and samples/descriptions of the site and actual materials that will be used.

Craddock said, while the HLC can offer direction and possible encouragement to the applicant at this time, the application must now be tabled. Deegans recommended that Long get in touch with the city’s Public Works Director Tony Legg regarding the proposed project.

Gillilan moved to table the application, seconded by Deegans, and approved 4-0, with Lindquist absent.

Public Hearing: *Jeanette Chambers, 152 Harris Street. Build a 2’x2’x2’ community pantry with shingles, siding, trim and paint colors to match house.*

Speaking on behalf of the applicant, Jean Patton of Patton Repair Service advised commissioners that the small free community pantry will be situated on Chambers’ property at the corner of Bennett and Harris and will be attached to a pole that will extend 4’ above ground level.

Gillilan moved to approve the application, seconded by Johns and approved 4-0, with Lindquist absent.

Public Hearing: *Bruce and Cyndee Stapp, 297 Church Street. Install wood windows to match existing original windows in kitchen and half bath. Replace door with original door in kitchen, patching brick where needed.*

Applicants said this historic restoration will replace windows on the back of their house with all wood double-hung windows to match the originals, and restore the original door on the kitchen.

Johns moved to approve the application, seconded by Gillilan and approved 4-0, with Lindquist absent.

Public Hearing: *Semper Fi, LLC, 1046 Washington Street. Replace awning. Paint and repair trim on front of building.*

Representing the applicant, which owns the property in question under the banner of

subordinated company Green Machine Properties, LLC, Coleman Kuhn described the proposed project which is designed to address water damage and prevent future damage to the building in which the shop Patina is now located. The new awning will be crafted of Sunbrella fabric and, in addition to replacing the existing awning, will extend to the left of that part of the building's facade to shield the door which leads to the second floor. The lower wall will be painted to coordinate with current paint colors. Future plans call for replacement of windows, but that separate project is not included in the current application.

Gillilan moved approval of the application, seconded by Deegans and approved 4-0, with Lindquist absent.

***Public Hearing:** Larry Perkins, 1031 Washington Street East. Paint exterior trim of building with SW3351.*

In the absence of the applicant, Planning and Zoning Officer Marsha Cunningham said the application is for painting of the exterior trim in Sherwin Williams Naval HGSW3351. Deegans said he had received substantial negative feedback on similar trim used on a house on Randolph Street. Mills added that what appears from the illustration provided by the applicant to be double trim around the door is not historic. Craddock said plans for the double trim will have to be changed.

Gillilan made a motion to table the application until the HLC's next meeting, by which time questions may be answered. Deegans seconded the motion, which was approved 4-0, with Lindquist absent.

***Public Hearing:** A&L Properties, 1108 Washington Street East. Replace right front door with same design and same color as existing door. Replace window casings around first level in back of building with Notwood, painted same color as existing paint.*

In the absence of the applicants, Cunningham described the proposed project as involving a new door as well as replacement of window casings with no change in paint colors.

Gillilan moved to approve the application, seconded by Johns and approved 4-0, with Lindquist absent.

COMMENTS FROM THE ZONING OFFICER: Cunningham said the recently-approved historic guidelines are being used, but the city's Planning and Zoning guidelines need to be posted online. She also noted that her office is still fielding questions about the 4' height limit on fences.

In addition, she reported that the former True Value building is scheduled for demolition by the end of March. Also, developers plan to add a second floor (containing residential units) to the Greenbrier Printing building.

ADJOURNMENT: Upon motion by Deegans, seconded by Gillilan and approved 4-0, with Lindquist absent, the meeting adjourned at 6:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Tina Alvey
Recording Officer