

City of Lewisburg
Historic Landmark Commission Regular Session
Meeting Minutes — February 12, 2024, 5:00 p.m.
942 Washington Street West, Lewisburg, WV
Paul L. Cooley Council Chambers

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

ABSENT: None.

VISITORS: Steve Defibaugh, Matt Bridgman, Paul McFarlane, David Hammond, Al Emch, Jerry Janiga, Jackson Bowling.

CALL TO ORDER: Meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m. by Chairperson David Craddock.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS: Commissioner William Deegans nominated Craddock to serve as chairperson. The nomination was seconded by Commissioner Clifford Gillilan and approved on a vote of 4-0. Gillilan nominated Commissioner Deegans to the office of secretary. Commissioner Donna Johns seconded the nomination, which was approved on a 4-0 vote.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Gillilan moved acceptance of minutes from the meeting held on December 11, 2023. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Adrienne French and approved on a 4-0 vote.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC: Al Emch delivered an update on the ongoing restoration of the former law library building and adjacent former dwelling. A contractor has been hired, and the project is expected to be complete no later than July 31, 2024. Emch said the basement and crawl space of the library building have been cleaned and the interior of the adjacent dwelling has been taken back to bare bricks, representing the purported state of the house when it was constructed. He said he will return later with a further report.

David Hammond, 959 Washington Street West. Replace two existing signs, same size with a different design and color.

The applicant said he plans to have his existing signs repainted, noting that the sign painter will create a new design for the signs in black and white.

Gillilan made a motion to approve the amended application, seconded by French, and approved on a 5-0 vote.

Wooten, Davis, Hussell and Johnson PLLC, 914 Jefferson Street. Revised alterations to the originally-approved application.

Representing the applicant, architect Jerry Janiga reported that the original project has been

scaled back and now involves “squaring up” the building, with some rebuilding and placing an addition at the back of the structure, and changing the metal roof to a gable roof, The new design was developed in collaboration with HLC consultant Michael Mills, Janiga said.

Gillilan moved approving the project, seconded by Deegans. The vote to approve was 5-0.

Paul McFarlane, 1618 Washington Street West. Resubmit gutters from pre-approved K-style to half-round.

Noting that he is currently working with the same contractor as the applicant, Deegans recused himself from the discussion and vote on McFarlane’s application and departed from the meeting chamber.

After lengthy, overlapping discussions involving the commissioners, Mills, McFarlane and contractors Matt Bridgman and Steve Defibaugh, all agreed that round downspouts should be installed on the front of the building and corrugated steel on the back. French made a motion to that effect, seconded by Gillilan, and approved on a 4-0 vote.

Better Homes and Gardens, 1018 Washington Street East. Window signs measuring 22”x26” and 21”x32”

Representing the applicant, contractor Jackson Bowling explained that the new signs will be “decals” installed on the inside of the windows at the top of the door and to the left of the door. He said there are currently no decals on the windows.

Upon motion by Deegans, seconded by Johns, the application was approved on a 5-0 vote.

COMMENTS FROM THE COMMISSIONERS: Johns said property owner Jim Morgan had contacted her regarding adding a new driveway to accommodate a second residence on the same lot where his home is located. Mills said city maps conflict on the issue of whether the second residence is sited within the Historic District. Zoning Officer Marsha Cunningham said resolving the issue will require information concerning when the property was subdivided, Craddock said the burden of proving the lot was properly subdivided falls on Morgan, adding that Morgan will need to submit an application to the HLC for the driveway.

COMMENTS FROM THE ZONING OFFICER: Cunningham reported that the owner of Plants Etc. and the adjacent bookstore recently found the bookstore’s original sign and hanger and now wants to restore the signage.

ADJOURNMENT: Upon motion by Gillilan, seconded by Deegans, and approved 5-0, the meeting adjourned at 6:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Tina Alvey
Recording Officer