

Village of Skaneateles
Historical Landmarks Preservation Commission
Work Session -- July 11, 2012

Present: Patricia Blackler, Chairman, HLPC
Ted Kinder, Member
Karlene Miller, Member
Dave Neibert, Member
Andrew Ramsgard, Member
Mona Smalley, Member
Carol Young, Member

Dennis Dundon, Clerk to the Historical Commission

Trustee Lanning
Chad Rogers, Skaneateles

Absent: Katharine Dyson, Member
Beverly White, Member

Chairman Blackler asked the members to remain for a short meeting following the departure of the attendees from the prior hearing. Member Kinder noted that an attendee at last month's meeting, Pam Watson, had approached him before the meeting and given him copies of the National Parks Service standards. Member Ramsgard offered to review it. Ms. Watson was unable to attend tonight.

Member Young reported that on a recent trip to Copenhagen where she saw beautiful historic buildings adorned with 15 foot neon 'Golden Arches' logo signs for McDonalds restaurant. She noted that that is what happens when you don't have adequate restrictions on signage.

Member Smalley said that it appeared that the front porch railing at the Dower property at 102 East Genesee Street (the Wainwright house) had been reproduced as originally installed on the house, rather than replacing it with the pattern proposed to the Commission. Member Ramsgard noted that the design stemmed from the importation of Malaysian artistry to the West, during the British imperial activities in China. Chairman Blackler asked if that was the design that the Commission approved. Discussion ensued about when the Commission had reviewed the project. Mr. Dundon said he thought it was about 3 months ago [actually it was the January 11, 2012 meeting]. Member Ramsgard said that if it was a repair-in-kind, no approval would be required by the Commission. Chairman Blackler noted the failure of the applicant to inform the Commission of a planned change, something that is now stated as a requirement on the revised Certificate of Approval that the Commission is now asking the applicants to sign when granted.

The members discussed the progress of its building review project. Difficulties with the photographs were noted because of leafy trees and crowded parking and sidewalks, conditions that can obscure details.

Mr. Chad Rogers' continued interest in the work of the Commission was noted. To be considered by the Village Board for appointment to some future vacancy, Mr. Rogers would need to send a letter of interest to the Mayor. The Commission would write a letter of recommendation in support. Trustee Lanning affirmed that approach. Mr. Rogers confirmed his interest in serving as a member of the Commission.

Trustee Lanning commented that improved communication will alleviate much of the confusion which may have contributed to differences between the Commission and the Village Board of Trustees. He suggested that the Commission use the cork board to display drawings during hearings, so both the members and the audience can better follow the discussion. Use of a laser pointer could provide greater clarity.

Chairman Blackler commented on the importance of rigorous review of applications so that the essential details are captured and focused upon.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:35 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Dennis Dundon, Clerk to HLPC