

Village of Skaneateles
Historical Landmarks Preservation Commission
February 13, 2013

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

Dennis Dundon, Clerk to the Historical Commission

Corinne Buterbaugh, Applicant

Mark Angelillo, Village Trustee
Mary Sennett, Village Trustee
Nick Paciorek, Skaneateles
Noah Smith, Skaneateles
Dan O'Connell, Skaneateles
Ben Rudnick, Skaneateles
Chris Niebahr, Skaneateles
Glenn Kelrum, Skaneateles
Jack Rudnick, Skaneateles

Absent: Katherine Dyson, Member
Dave Neibert, Member

At 7:30 pm Chairman Blackler opened the discussion in the matter of the application of William & Corinne Buterbaugh for replacement of porch steps and adding a railing at 103 East Genesee Street. Mrs. Buterbaugh introduced herself and said, "It is very straight-forward. The stairs in the back, which are adjacent to 105 E. Genesee, are in poor repair. They are coming away from the rest of the porch. So we need to replace them. At that time, we would like to add a railing to match the rest of the house. Colors and wood materials will be identical to the rest of the porch." Chairman Blackler said, "I am glad to see a railing go up on any stairs." Member Smalley said, "I think it sounds wonderful." Member Kinder said, "I'm surprised your insurance company didn't say something before this." Mrs. Buterbaugh replied, "They said things about a lot of things but not that railing. They were actually more concerned about the railings inside the house. They noted on their appraisal that the railings inside the house were low."

Member White said, "I certainly have no objection to it. I think it's very nice and appropriate." Member Miller said, "I think it is very nice." Chairman Blackler said, "This is a public hearing. Every one of the applications that we take – I'm talking to the boys – is a Public Hearing. That means that anyone can come and make a comment on what she is trying to apply for. So I'm going to open the public comment portion of the hearing. Is there anyone who would like to speak in favor of this application?" Hearing no one, she asked, "Is there anyone who would like to speak in opposition?" Again hearing no one, Chairman Blackler called for a motion to close the public hearing. Member Miller moved and Member Ramsgard seconded. Upon the unanimous vote of the members present in favor of the motion, Chairman Blackler declared the Public Hearing closed. Chairman Blackler indicated that she would accept a motion.

Member Miller said, "I move that we approve the application of the Buterbaughs, noting that colors and materials will match the existing porch." Member Young seconded the motion.

Member Smalley asked, "What's on the surface of the steps? Is that just wood?" Mrs. Buterbaugh said, "Yes, but it is rotting. All 3 steps will be replaced." Chairman Blackler asked, "And the railing is going to be white?" Mrs. Buterbaugh, "Yes the railing will look like the railing on the rest." Member Kinder asked, "What's the tread material on the existing stairs? Is it full wood?" Mrs. Buterbaugh, "Yes, and the risers as well." Member Ramsgard, "Do the stairs have lattice on the sides?" Mr. Buterbaugh, "No. You can see from this picture it's just solid wood." Member Smalley, "So the surface of the porch on top of the steps is just wood to match the top of the steps?" Mrs. Buterbaugh said, "Yes, except the wood on the porch is tongue and groove; this will be just wood." Member Young said, "Sometimes they make it two, so there's an area for water to drain down." Mrs. Buterbaugh said, "I think that's what's on there now. It's not really much of a gap, but I think it is two pieces of wood."

Chairman Blackler called for the vote. On the unanimous vote of the members present in favor of the motion, Chairman Blackler declared the application to be approved and informed that applicant that she would be receiving the Certificate of Approval shortly.

At the conclusion of this matter, Chairman Blackler told the members that she would not be available for the March 13 meeting and that she had asked Member Ramsgard to chair the meeting in her absence.

For the benefit of the Boy Scouts present, Chairman Blackler explained the existence of the Historic District, its limits and the purpose and involvement of the HLPC and its conduct of Public Hearings. Further discussion revolved around the criteria for exterior approvals based on 'appropriateness'. Members commented on some cases that had come before the Commission and some controversial proposals that had come before the community. Mr. Dundon explained the process of building permits and referrals to various Boards before the permit may be granted by the Code Enforcement Officer.

Members discussed the multiple Board structure that exists within the Village and their various interests and involvements. Further discussion covered the various Zoning districts and their permitted uses, including public uses within the districts.

At 7:55 the Boy Scouts left the meeting and the meeting was adjourned by acclamation.

Respectfully submitted,

Dennis Dundon

Clerk to the Historical Landmarks Preservation Commission