

Village of Skaneateles
Historical Landmarks Preservation Commission
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

Rev. Dr. Craig Lindsey, Pastor First Presbyterian Church, Applicant

Trustee Lanning
Chad Rogers, Skaneateles
Joe Goethe, Skaneateles
Michael Wamp, Skaneateles
Bob Neumann, Skaneateles
Robert Medina, Camillus
Kevin Gadra, Skaneateles

Absent: Katharine Dyson, Member
Beverly White, Member

Chairman Blackler opened the Public Hearing at 7:30 pm in the matter of the application by the First Presbyterian Church for 97 East Genesee Street. The Chairman introduced the members of the public who were present. The Chairman said, "Could you make a little presentation for us?" Rev. Lindsey replied, "Certainly. There are several different projects to come before you tonight. The Genesee Street doors have been almost every color possible. According to old photos, they have been white, they have been green, they had been plywooded-over and painted red, they have been black. Years ago, David Lynn stripped them down to bare wood and stained them the current color brown. We are simply going to have them refinished the same color brown now. Lee Bennett is to do the work – it is to sand them, re-caulk and repaint exactly as they were. Outdoors, the sidewalks in three places are completely cracked. It's a liability; we don't want anyone to get hurt. The driveway was an existing driveway back in the 40s and 50s. It has not been in existence as a driveway since 1997 when we worked on the building project and replaced it with a sidewalk. The driveway is on the east side of the church property, between the Riordan's house and the church. Originally there was a *porte-cochere* off the side that you could drive through. Our hope is to return that to grass, which gives you more permeable soil, as well as another parking space on the street."

Rev. Lindsey continued, "The church sign, all of a sudden we looked at it and said 'oh my gosh, it's rotting'. This Commission, more than anybody, remembers the story on the sign. Originally it faced the other direction, and was pointless. We replaced it with the sign that seemed appropriate to everybody, but once it was installed we discovered that it not only lit up, but glowed. You could see it from here. So we replaced that signboard with a redwood sign. We thought that redwood would never rot and that we'd be good for the future, but as the bottom of it sat in the snow, it has rotted. We contacted the original sign maker who said that he is now making them out of styrene; it will look identical to the current sign. It is to be high density styrene that is painted black, routed out and gold lettering applied inside, with a frame – just as it currently looks. He will put an aluminum roof gable underneath of it so that the snow would fall off. The styrene won't rot the same way. We are trenching for plumbing outdoors that's for an internal bathroom. But it's from our own lateral to our own building."

Chairman Blackler asked, "So you are sure that the sign is going to be an exact duplicate, except for the material?" Rev. Lindsey responded, "I will have problems to pay, in my own congregation along with you folks, if it is not. We looked at three different option of what we could do, and decided we want it the same; which is the most expensive, but we want it right." Member Smalley said, "I checked it out on my way down, and I have a couple of questions. Now the driveway to be replaced, is that just from the sidewalk to the street?" Rev. Lindsey said, "Yes." Member Smalley continued, "And the sidewalk that goes back on the east side of the church will stay the way it is?" Rev. Lindsey, "Absolutely." Member Smalley, "Great. The door is brown now and it is going to be brown?" Rev. Lindsey, "Exact same color brown." Member Smalley, "Everything's perfect."

Chairman Blackler asked for the sample of the door color, and noted that it is Benjamin Moore's Charleston Brown. She continued, "So where the funeral service came out, that will be left..." Rev. Lindsey, "Temporarily there will be a trench dug, and the grass will be replaced just as it was. Their hope is to be able to bore underneath of the sidewalk; it's our own sidewalk there, so the lateral can come through. The point is that we want to put a bathroom in the narthex which for all the weddings and for several of our members makes great importance. Instead of running the plumbing back into the building to run it out, we discovered it is a much shorter run and gravity will work in our favor, if we run the lines out front."

Chairman Blackler asked if anyone else had questions. Member Miller said, "I agree with all of this that he has said, and I would like to make a motion." Chairman Blackler reminded her that the motion was premature.

Chairman Blackler opened the public comment portion of the hearing by asking, "Is there anyone who would like to speak in favor of the application?" Hearing no one desiring to be recognized, she asked, "Is there anyone who would like to speak in opposition?" Again hearing no one desiring to be recognized, Chairman Blackler said, "The Public Hearing is closed."

Chairman Blackler said, "I'll entertain a motion." Member Miller said, "I'd like to make a motion that the Applicant be granted a Certificate of Approval for all of the work as proposed." The motion was seconded by Member Smalley.

Upon the unanimous vote of all members present in favor of the motion, Chairman Blackler declared, "The motion is passed."

This matter was concluded at 7:35 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Dennis Dundon, Clerk to HLPC