

Minutes
Historic District Commission
Wednesday, July 27, 2011
7:00p.m.
Lower Hearing Room
Adopted January 25, 2012

Members Present: Harvey Steiner, Kenneth Sheytanian, Robert Childs, John Hecker, Linda Sternberg

Members Absent: Carolyn Famiglietti

Staff Present: Christopher Hayward, Daphne Collins

Public Present: See Attached Sign-In Form

Harvey Steiner chaired.

1. Public Hearing – Certificate of Appropriateness - 111 Mt. Auburn Street – installation of a double-sided identification sign. Applicant: Chris Bass.

Chris Bass, pastor and applicant, presented the request to install a wood carved double-sided identification sign. The sign will be illuminated with flood lights that are flush to the ground.

Hecker recommended that the sign be placed so it can be viewed from traffic travelling along both sides of Mt. Auburn Street.

Steiner recommended the lettering be large enough for easy readability

Vote: Sheytanian moved to issue a Certificate of Appropriateness for 111 Mt. Auburn Street for the installation of an identification sign. Hecker seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

2. Public Hearing – Certificate of Appropriateness – 111 Mt. Auburn Street (15 Phillips Street) – the installation of a wood fence. Applicant: Chris Bass

Chris Bass, pastor and applicant, requested that the item be continued to allow him more time to finalize the details on the fence design and location.

Vote: Famiglietti moved to continue the item to the next meeting on July 27 at 7pm in the Lower Hearing Room. Childs seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

3. Public Hearing – Certificate of Hardship – 147 Mt. Auburn Street – the installation of an aluminum storefront in response to an emergency repair. Applicant: Eric Markarian. Owner: Anthony Mirakian

Eric Markarian, applicant, tenant and business owner of ME Electric, reported that he had occupied the retail space since December of 2010. He said that the glass window panels were in very poor condition. The glass panes floated with a ¾" gap between the frame, requiring two people to clean the windows, one to support it in place while another person cleaned. He also reported that the window panels would vibrate and move with passing traffic and wind. Because of the unsafe, substandard conditions he contacted a window contractor to replace the storefront windows. This replacement was done without approval of the Building Department or the HDC. A violation notification was issued by the Building Inspector and the Preservation Agent.

Steiner did not approve of the replacement. He stated that he would not have approved of the materials or configuration. Famiglietti did not like the appearance. Markarian reported that he had selected the configuration to match the nearby pizza place.

Childs inquired if there was a proper seal between the aluminum window and the ground. Markarian responded that prior to the storefront replacement water seeped through. He thought that with the pressure treated wood framing and Icynene insulation the storefront was watertight.

Hecker inquired if the applicant could make changes so that the panel horizontals matched the horizontal lines of the original base panels. He found the aluminum configurations inappropriate.

Markarian agreed to reframing with wood to match the old storefront configurations.

Steiner recommended that the applicant redesign and present proposed changes that would be in keeping with the older features. Steiner was ok with the door configuration.

Vote: Sternberg moved to continue the item at a special site meeting on Thursday, August 4 at 9:30am. Hecker to provide a sketch of the storefront changes for discussion at the meeting. Hecker seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

Childs suggested that a concrete base be installed because the present base will corrode with the snow, salt and snow removal efforts.

4. March Minutes – adopted. (Hecker moved. Famiglietti seconded)

5. Old Business

a. Signage – no update

Childs and Famiglietti will not be able to attend the July meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 7:50pm.