

ALGONQUIN HISTORIC COMMISSION

MINUTES FOR REGULAR

MEETING

OCTOBER 11, 2023

7:00 PM

Held at Historic Village Hall – 2 South Main Street – Algonquin

CALL TO ORDER – ESTABLISH QUORUM

Present: Chairman Jolitz and Members Dombrowski, Donahue, Lewis, and Thompson.

**APPROVE MINUTES OF REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING OF SEPTEMBER 13, 2023,
AND WORKSHOP MEETINGS OF SEPTEMBER 16 AND 23, 2023**

Moved Member Donahue; Seconded Member Dombrowski.

Voice Vote: All Ayes. Minutes Approved.

PUBLIC COMMENT – AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

None.

APPROVAL OF BILLS FOR PAYMENT

None.

PUBLIC HEARING

Public Hearing for Consideration of a Major Improvement in the Old Town District; Case No. HC-02-23, 109/111 S. Main Street for addition of a window. Applicant: Greg Geigel:

Staff Presentation: Patrick Knapp, Village Senior Planner, presented the case on behalf of Village Staff. Mr. Knapp reported that Greg Geigel, the Applicant and owner of the Subject Property, applied for a Certificate of Appropriateness to add a window to the north side of 109/111 South Main Street, which is in the public view. The proposed installation is considered a “major improvement” under the Old Town District Preservation Code, and must be reviewed by the Historic Commission at a Public Hearing prior to the issuance of a Certificate of Appropriateness and Building Permit.

The location for this new window opening previously contained a window but was bricked off at some point. A temporary window is in place currently and will remain until a permanent window is installed. The Applicant plans to match the style of the new window to the style of the window in the opening on the same side of the building.

Staff Recommendation: Village Staff recommends approval of the Certificate of Appropriateness as submitted with the following conditions: (1) the new window shall match the style of the existing window on the same side of the building; and (2) Petitioner

shall obtain a building permit and comply with all applicable Village Building Code requirements.

Petitioner’s Comments

Petitioner explained when concrete spray on the building was recently removed, the space for the original window was revealed behind it, and none of the brick was tuckpointed around it. All loose brick was then removed and a temporary window was installed to fill the opening that remained. The final window will completely fill the original window space and have a shelf beneath to match the front window with the logo.

Commission Discussion:

Member Donahue inquired whether the final window will have the Whiskey and Wine logo. Petitioner explained that he is considering some options that would be consistent with other windows in the building and will decide after speaking to the Village.

Motion

Motion by Member Donahue, seconded by Member Lewis, that the Building Commissioner issue the requested Certificate of Appropriateness for Case No. HC-02-23, 109/111 S. Main Street for addition of a window, with the following conditions: (1) the new window match the style of the existing window on the same side of the building; and (2) Petitioner obtain a building permit and comply with all applicable Village Building Code requirements. Chairman Jolitz asked if there were any further questions or discussion needed on the project. There being none, a Roll Call Vote was taken. Roll Call Vote: All Ayes.

PUBLIC HEARING

Public Hearing for Consideration of a Major Improvement in the Old Town District; Case No. HC-03-23, 308 N. Main Street for alteration of front porch. Applicant: Victor Lopez:

Staff Presentation: Patrick Knapp, Village Senior Planner, presented the case on behalf of Village Staff. Mr. Knapp reported that Victor Lopez, the Applicant and owner of the Subject Property, applied for a Certificate of Appropriateness to modify the porch on the dwelling located on the Subject Property, which is in the public view. The proposed modification is considered a “major improvement” under the Old Town District Preservation Code, and must be reviewed by the Historic Commission at a Public Hearing prior to the issuance of a Certificate of Appropriateness and Building Permit.

The Applicant and Owner purchased the Subject Property in September of 2022, and reported to Village Staff that the Subject Property and dwelling were not in good shape when he purchased it, and work needed to be done to bring the Subject Property into a safe condition. Staff has confirmed through various methods that parts of the Subject Property and the dwelling were not in good shape at the time of purchase.

When the Applicant began working on the Subject Property, he removed elements of the porch that were rotting and replaced those elements with materials that were not consistent with the Old Town Preservation Code and without a Certificate of Appropriateness. The Applicant was contacted by Village Staff to stop work immediately and responded to Staff that he was unaware that he needed approval for external work on the dwelling. Staff instructed the Applicant to work with the Historic Commission to find materials that fit the character of the building and to apply for a Certificate of Appropriateness once the materials were chosen. The Applicant plans to order the following products in redwood (cedar if redwood is unavailable): 4"x4" spindle – 32" high, 6"x6" nominal Newel posts – 48" high, 2"x6" nominal Handrail, 2"x5" nominal Deck Railing.

Staff Recommendation: Staff recommends approval of the Certificate of Appropriateness as submitted with the following conditions: (1) Applicant continue to work with the Historic Commission to ensure that the design of the porch and new elements conform with the Old Town Preservation Code; (2) new elements be of redwood, or cedar if redwood is unavailable; (3) for any future modifications that require permits, the applicant obtain permits and comply with all applicable Village Building Code requirements.

Petitioner's Comments

Petitioner did not appear.

Commission Discussion:

Chairman Jolitz explained that he and Members Thompson and Dombrowski met with Petitioner at a time convenient for him outside of normal workshop hours on September 28, 2023, to explain applicable requirements under the Preservation Code for replacing the spindles, hand and bottom railings, and Newel posts on his front porch. Members also gave Petitioner copies of design drawings of such items available in redwood and cedar at a dealer in North Dakota (Mr. Spindle).

Chairman Jolitz also explained that Petitioner may use spindles with either 3½" x 3½" actual dimensions or 2¼" x 2¼" actual dimensions, and top and bottom railings that fit the appropriate spindle size, but the Newel posts at the bottom of the porch stairs must be 5¼" x 5¼" actual dimensions. Although Petitioner was informed on September 23 of the larger 3½" x 3½" spindles and matching railings allowed, he was not shown drawings of the smaller 2¼" x 2¼" spindles and matching railings that are also allowed. Patrick Knapp will provide Petitioner with information and drawings regarding the smaller spindles and matching railings allowed, as well as the other items mentioned above.

Chairman Jolitz also explained that Members also spoke to Petitioner on September 23rd about replacing the decorative trim previously on top of his flat porch roof in either wood or metal/iron cresting. Petitioner was also provided with pictures of those options and information about vendors for such trim pieces.

Motion

Motion by Member Thompson, seconded by Member Dombrowski, that the Building Commissioner issue the requested Certificate of Appropriateness for Case No. HC-03-23, 308 N. Main Street for alteration of front porch, with the following conditions: (1) all porch components must consist of redwood or cedar; (2) the Newel posts must be 5¼” x 5¼” actual dimensions; (3) all spindles must be either 3½” x 3½” actual dimensions or 2¼” x 2¼” actual dimensions; (4) top and bottom railings must fit the appropriate spindle size; (5) the Newel posts and spindles must be consistent in appearance with the period and architecture of the home and product drawings provided by the Commission; (6) Petitioner shall replace the decorative trim on top of the flat porch roof in either the sawn wood style that was removed or a metal cresting consistent with product drawings provided by the Commission; and (7) Petitioner shall comply with all applicable Village Building Code requirements. Chairman Jolitz asked if there were any further questions or discussion needed on the project. There being none, a Roll Call Vote was taken. Roll Call Vote: All Ayes.

OLD BUSINESS

Members discussed the recent Cemetery Walk event on October 7, 2023; discussion to be continued at next workshop on October 21, 2023.

Members discussed the recent Farewell to Angel Town event in Towne Park on September 16, 2023.

Members discussed plans for a replacement exhibit in the display case in main Village Hall; discussion to be continued at workshop on October 28, 2023.

NEW BUSINESS:

Members reported on attendance at the September 19 Village Board Meeting recognizing the Commission’s \$4,500 contribution for restoration of the historic Mineral Spring site.

Chairman Jolitz will inquire with the Village as to the status of the acquisition of a new copier machine for Historic Village Hall.

Members discussed the recent installation of a new Ring Doorbell system at Historic Village Hall, and reported that it is functioning.

CORRESPONDENCE, COMMENTS, AND OTHER BUSINESS

Chairman Jolitz reported on recent donations from the Estate of Nora Miller.

Chairman Jolitz reminded that both Workshops will be held this month, on October 21 and 28, 2023.

ADJOURNMENT

Member Lewis moved, and Member Dombrowski seconded, that the meeting be adjourned. Meeting adjourned at 8:11 pm.

Secretary

Date Approved