

Borough of Newtown
HISTORICAL ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW BOARD

Meeting Minutes of
Wednesday, December 21, 2016

Time: 7:30 p.m.
Location: Borough Council Chambers, 23 North State Street
Present: Mr. James McAuliffe, Chairperson
Mr. Michael Hutchinson, Vice Chairperson
Ms. Mary Dinneen, Member
Mr. Bernie Sauer, Member
Mr. Brian Titus, Member
Mr. Michael Italia, Zoning Officer & COA Administrator
Ms. Marilou Ehrler, Preservation Consultant
Mr. Bob King, Borough Council Liaison
Leslie P. Dunleavy, HARB Secretary
Absent: Mr. Steve Rinear, Member

1. Meeting Commencement

Mr. McAuliffe explained that this Board's recommendations would go to Borough Council for review at their next meeting at 7:00 pm at the Chancellor Center, at 30 N. Chancellor Street, on Tuesday, January 10, 2017. Applicants were advised not to begin their projects until they had received final approval by Council and obtained the necessary permits. The review process for larger projects may take two (2) to three (3) meetings.

Mr. McAuliffe welcomed new Zoning Officer & COA Administrator Mike Italia to the Board.

2. Approval of the Minutes

Ms. Dinneen made a motion to approve the minutes of the November 16, 2016 meeting, as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. Sauer and unanimously approved by the Board.

3. Application Considered

The following application was considered at the meeting:

16-048-H 14 S. Congress Street – Barbara Swanda, residence

4. Application 16-048-H

Applicant: Barbara Swanda
14 S. Congress Street, residence

The applicant seeks a Certificate of Appropriateness for the installation of a 6' Eastern white cedar fence to replace an existing red cedar fence.

Homeowner Barbara Swanda was present.

The Board considered the application in relation to Ordinance No. 594 of the Borough of Newtown Code and *The Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties*, (1995), page 61.

Mrs. Ehrler said that she had no concerns and that the proposed fence was appropriate.

The Board had no questions.

Citing Standard 10, Ms. Dinneen made a motion to recommend the approval of the application, as presented. Mr. Titus seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved by the Board.

5. Miscellaneous

Mr. McAuliffe reported that Council, at their last meeting, had tabled the application for an amendment to C.O.A. 2015-028 for 121 N. State Street to modify the installed vinyl clad windows by metal cladding the windows on the house that are visible from a street or public way. HARB recommended approval for the amendment at their meeting on November 16, 2017. He said that applicant William Hess was not present at the meeting and that Council had additional questions, resulting in the tabling of the application.

Mr. King said Application #16-047-H for 246 S. State Street had not been included on the Council meeting agenda; HARB had recommended denial of the application at their November 16, 2016 meeting. He said that Mr. McAuliffe had submitted a written report to Council, detailing the reasons for denial and including HARB'S recommendations, which is required within 30 days of a HARB denial. Mr. King noted that homeowner Conchetta Stefani had not been present at the Council meeting. The issue will be addressed at Council's Work Session on January 5, 2017.

Mr. Italia said that an online fillable HARB application is now available on the Borough website. He said that they are looking at past practices, reviewing relevant Borough Ordinances and thinning the Borough property files, removing documents that are not necessary to retain. Ms. Ehrler suggested that links to the Secretary of the Interior Standards be included on the website for residents to reference. Mr. Italia suggested that some of the submitted HARB applications could be distributed digitally; this would not include those with large plans. He and Ms. Dunleavy will determine the distribution methods for future applications, to test the practicality and ease of distribution.

Mr. King reminded Board members to send him any suggestions for street names for the Steeple View development.

6. Upcoming Meeting

The next HARB meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, January 25, 2017.

7. Adjournment

Without objection, the meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

Leslie P. Dunleavy, Secretary