

Architectural Review Board
June 3, 2004

We were called to order in the conference room of Victory Hall by chair Jeffrey Plank at 7 p.m. Also present were Lillian Copeland, Ruth Klippstein, and Fred Schneider. Barry Clark attended, as did Steven Meeks and applicants Harold and Angie Hamner. After we established a quorum, agreed on the agenda, we deferred acceptance of May's minutes.

Summary of Actions: We recommend a Certificate of Appropriateness for Harold Hamner's application for siding renovation at 105 Warren Street, with conditions. In the matter of the sign for Rhythm on the River, we need a more complete description of the sign, and advise Council that we have questions about the sign hanging permanently, but are willing to consider recommending a variance for the oversize, depending on the length of time the sign will be displayed.

New Business: Harold Hamner described the project at his mother's 105 Warren St. house, a circa 1946 residence that needs more presentable siding and better insulation. Jeffrey Plank and Fred Schneider inspected the exterior of the building with the applicants prior to the meeting, and suggested, in addition to the siding, application of a stucco-type coating on the cinder block foundation, and fixing the clutter of utilities. We looked at a sample of the vinyl siding to be installed. Jeffrey explained the ARB's role in preserving the town's historic district and the difference between this "charming cottage" and older, more architecturally significant buildings. He noted that the siding is to be applied directly over the current wood, so nothing will be destroyed and the project could later be reversed. Fred described as another positive point the wooden porch, which also needs repair. After discussion we agreed with the applicant that the porch, when repaired, is to remain wood, and the interesting roof details, with exposed rafter tails, is to be left intact. With these two conditions, recommendation of the application was moved and unanimously passed.

We next considered the application from Bob Slavitt, the Town of Scottsville, and Rhythm on the River for a 5 1/2' x 10' sign advertising both Rhythm on the River and town parking to be hung on James River Country Store's north wall. This size is over the 32 square feet limit here mandated, and so would require a variance. No details of materials or mounting were offered, and Jeffrey asked us to advise Council on our general thoughts, pending a more complete application. We discussed possibilities, and generally agreed this would add a certain vitality to downtown, but possibly be better as a seasonal sign, maybe with other events advertised at other seasons. If the sign were mounted only in the summer, the larger size would make sense and encourage us to be open to asking for the zoning variance.

Repair and Maintenance: Jeffrey and Fred will get a draft letter to Barry to send to Chris Long about the Bocce building. Barry reports that vines have been cut at the lace factory but not pulled off the structure.

Inventory Project: Jeffrey reported that Albemarle Historical Society will be “thrilled to partner with us” in this publication, and will help to raise funds. A further meeting will be held this summer to consider details.

Other Business: We note that the InsurPro sign is still not installed; and an unpainted fence has been erected at 347 Main Street. Lillian requested assistance at a Council working session in defending the ARB decision in regard to Oliver Kuttner’s application; Jeffrey responded.

Respectfully submitted,

Ruth Klippstein, Secretary