

Architectural Review Board
May 4, 2006

Jeffrey Plank, chair, called the meeting to order at 7 p.m. in the Conference Room of the Municipal Building; also present were members Ruth Klippstein, John Koski, and Fred Schneider; Barry Clark; and application representatives Jesse Grove and Steven Meeks. Minutes of the February 2006 meeting were approved and the agenda was adjusted. Note: there was no ARB meeting in March or April due to lack of applications.

Summary of Actions: We accept Jesse Grove's amended design for the accessory structure at 270 Jackson Street, with the stipulation that details of the screening uprights, porch railing, and support columns be approved specifically as the project progresses.
We agree to the text of a letter to Town Council requesting variances on setback and parking for Steven Meeks at 732 Valley St.

Old business: Jesse Grove described changing his plans due to a visual obstruction of the river view. He now proposes a screened porch with arcade below, a "more complicated" design, Jeffrey noted, but "more functional" Jesse said. Fred suggested two areas of concern: the railing around the porch and the look of the columns. Discussing the critical nature of architectural details and balance in creating an early 20th century screened porch look, we asked Jesse to consider scaling down or eliminating the heavy bases of the columns, and adding another upright to hold the screening. We unanimously agree to accept the application in principle, but to request the submission of details about the joining of screen and railing, and the dimensions of the columns, as the project progresses.

Barry reviewed our history with Steven Meeks's 732 Valley Street renovation, and circulated a letter in support of his project from Ann Andrus, State Department of Historic Resources. We also discussed erection of a suitable highway barrier in front of the building, but Steven said the DOT will not put one up if the property owner does not request it, which he will not do. We checked original plans and meeting minutes, and read Jeffrey's letter to Town Council in reference to the setback as supported by the Department of Historic Resources; we understand Steven has proposed an agreeable compromise with Council on the parking. We unanimously approved the letter to Council.

Maintenance: Barry reported that the broken sign at CitGo at 305 Valley St. has been replaced with a similar sign. The Post Office has added some new copper gutters and is repaving the parking lot. Stephen Hawranke will meet with the administrator when he is next in town about replacement of the wall elements removed by the former owner of the Brick Café. At the Masonic building, progress is being made in the removal of vines from the rear of the building.

Inventory project: Jeffrey will talk to Lillian Copeland about assisting him with the next steps in fundraising and publication.

With thanks to Barry for his steadfast help during his tenure as town administrator, we adjourned at 7:45.

Respectfully submitted,

Ruth Klippstein, secretary