

Architectural Review Board
Thursday, April 3, 2008

Jeffrey Plank, chair, called the meeting to order at 7 p.m. in the Town Council room of the Municipal Building. Members present were Nancy Gill, Ruth Klippstein, and Fred Schneider. Also attending were Stephen Phipps, Clark Draper, Barry Grove, Rose Herndon, and Steven Meeks. The agenda was adjusted and minutes of the March 2008 meeting approved as written.

Summary of Actions: We recommend Town Council adopt a civil penalties schedule for violations of the zoning ordinance.

New Business: Jeffrey reported that he, Sallie Massie, and Rose Herndon toured the Methodist Church to consider various building projects the church is considering. Rose showed an example of a Pella window that could be used to replace deteriorating windows. Fred reiterated our “generic requirements” for windows in the Historic District, stressing that a building less historically “intact,” such as the church, has more options, as long as the windows are compatible with others downtown. After discussion, we agreed that these double-hung windows with the look of divided lights are acceptable. The church will need to raise sufficient money to complete the project; Jeffrey suggested doing one side of the building at a time. Fred noted that the scale of any larger windows in the structure may not fit this example. We will need to have a COA for final approval. The church is also considering a ramp for the double front doors. Jeffrey suggested dark painted wood as most appropriate and easy to keep up, and railings in wrought iron—not a deck railing.

Old Business: Jeffrey and Fred looked at the Fluvanna parcel in the entry corridor we addressed provisionally last month. They report that from either the east or west, the view is of disturbed land and needs planting along the roadside property line to restore the “wooded character of the entry corridor.” We envision this as a naturalistic buffer to mimic the types of trees and shrubs on the other side of the road, not a regimented landscape planting. Clark will write to Isaac Shelley.

Clark and Barry described work to find a model for a “schedule of civil penalties” for violations of our zoning ordinance, and distributed the one from the Virginia Code used in Albemarle County. Barry believes this is “the best we can do,” and after discussion the ARB agreed unanimously to recommend to Town Council that it pursue adoption of such civil penalties.

Jeffrey reported on Streetscape’s Enhancement Oversight Committee working on cleaning up the north terminus of work on Valley Street; more agreements with property owners are needed before more utility lines can come down, reducing that area to only one pole. The group has decided which features of the original plan should be finished, and is helping to write a Request for Proposals for that work. A “punch list” has been established for the contractor, with more to do, and Fred agreed to be present for punch list walk-throughs. Jeffrey also reported that the plant is ready to reroute their trucks from Valley to Main to Bird Streets. Bird will have to be widened and drains connected and strengthened. It is ARB’s role to preserve the look of Bird as a residential street, and Jeffrey suggested a painted line to show vehicles the original width of the street. Fred suggested that VDOT could pave it in a different type of material.

Farmers Market has come up to the Oversight Committee. We had a general discussion of the process leading to the current situation. Nancy voiced her unhappiness at work being done on the design without full Council approval. Jeffrey and Fred said they want ARB to be able to help efficiently and creatively, but are unsure of what procedures are being followed. We hope that Council can lead the way in this matter, straighten out the process, and we will be ready to consider a new design. Clark distributed a design for screening the pump station, part of the Market site.

New Business continued: We looked at a window considered by Jimmy Marshall, renovator, and Hilton Patterson, owner, of 496 Valley St., the phone switching station behind the old ABC. Photographs show this to be in the modern cube style, with art deco elements: a plain, square building in keeping with its time and with the design of the ABC building. Fred noted that the type of window originally used for this style would be single pane casements, surrounded in a dark color, not like the example shown us, but probably less expensive. To consider this fully, we need a COA so we can look at an integrated project, including the door, other elements of the building, and its possible use. We might be able to recommend a low-interest façade improvement loan to the owner, as this period of time and type of building are important to represent in Scottsville.

Maintenance and repair: Victory Hall, 401 Valley St. Clark asked for suggestions on renovation of the second story railing, and Steve Phipps talked about the general deterioration of the building, including recent renovations. We discussed stripping back the 1996 changes, including the unworkable Chippendale style railing, to a more simplified look; Jeffrey suggested removing the two globe lights that now are “at odds” with the new lighting system and possibly introducing water problems. Fred, Nancy and Steve met after our meeting to look at Fred’s drawings for the building, and Jeffrey reminded Fred to open the planning to other committees and agencies in town as soon as possible.

Inventory project: This work is on hold while Jeffrey is on the Oversight Committee.

Other: Steven Meeks apologized for using a different color for the old F&M bank than the one we agreed on, which looked too garish when applied. After trying 4 colors, he proceeded with the best; Clark will modify the COA when Steven gives him the color name.

With no further business, we adjourned at 8:30.

Respectfully submitted,

Ruth Klippstein, secretary