

Architectural Review Board

July 5, 2012

Jeffrey Plank, chair, called the meeting to order in Council chambers at 7 p.m. Also present were Ruth Klippstein, Steven Meeks, Fred Schneider, and Craig Stratton; George Goodwin attended. We deferred approval of the June minutes until our next meeting.

Old business: We noted that windows have been changed without a COA at the former Dew Drop building. We had discussed the salvage and reuse of original materials with the property owner when he received a COA for roof renovation, but in the matter of the windows, nothing original has been used or copied. As the owner is now in violation of the Ordinances, we discussed a stop work order and filing of a COA for the work done—which most likely will be rejected as not meeting ARB guidelines and past recommendations. George will meet with the owner to discuss this as well as health and fire issues; we ask him to urge the saving of any original material from the windows that is possible.

Jeffrey reported that Jeff Sprouse, owner of Tavern on the James, attended the recent Council meeting to appeal our recommendation on the finishing of his corner steps. Though he was not on the agenda, and therefore it was not in accordance with stated procedure, Council approved his request to use brick and slate, overturning our recommendation. Jeffrey strongly objected to our not being able to be present at the meeting and to the lack of correct procedure; he suggested we make a response to Council's action. We discussed the difference between reviews and appeals and heard Craig's report on the sense of the meeting, as well as George's. We decided, according to Steven's suggestion, that Jeffrey will seek a legal opinion from the Town's lawyer. We also agree to suggest to Council that procedurally, the ARB proposes Council reviews of ARB recommendations of COAs be included on regular work sessions and regular council meeting agendas, and that ARB attend those meetings.

Former jail/Chamber of Commerce visitor center: George Goodwin provided information for a discussion of several outstanding issues with this building; no application was made. He reported that the drainage has been fixed and handicapped access and designation of police parking can be remedied. In the matter of the façade-type roof, we reiterated our opinion that this treatment is not consistent with our guidelines that try to keep architectural details authentic and historic.

Craig suggested adding signs identifying the building along the roof line to the south and west, therefore doing away with further needs to change the roof or roof line. Fred agreed that this was a valid alternative, and that the area between the building and the adjacent Coleman's, where street cleaning tools will be stored, could be covered with a free-standing car port-type roof, clearly subordinate to and not attached to either building. He will sketch a possible design for

the signs and tool area using input from George about sign dimensions, which will probably require a variance. We agreed that this is “a smart way” to repurpose the building while still treating an historical structure in an authentic, utilitarian way. This, Jeffrey noted, is taking care of the cultural history of Scottsville, as the ARB is charged to do. George requested paint color suggestions, which we will consider.

New business: We conducted an informal discussion of Jeffrey Plank’s proposal to add an outbuilding to his Harrison Street property, modeling it on the current summer kitchen. We discussed further details the proposal might need, and suggested that he make the application, in August, a model we could show to others for their own applications.

Other Business: Steven Meeks told us that Charlottesville has produced a letter about their historic district guidelines for property owners that we might consider using; he will get us copies. He said that Preservation Virginia will have a conference in Leesburg in September with a free session on ARBs we might all attend. Information will be circulated.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Ruth Klippstein, secretary