

COMMISSION OF ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW

January 28, 2021

Members Present

Robin Crews
Robert Stowe
Robert Weir
Jackson Weller

Members Absent

Susan Stilwell
Jeffrey Bond
Michael Nicholas

Staff

Doug Plachcinski
Lisa Jones
Clarke Whitfield

Ms. Crews called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m.

Ms. Crews stated we will add to the agenda with the approval of the committee the election of officers.

The motion was approved by a unanimous vote.

ELECTIONS OF OFFICERS

Mr. Nicholas turned the meeting over to Mr. Whitfield for the Election of Officers.

Mr. Whitfield called for nominations for Chairman.

Mr. Weir nominated Ms. Crews for Chairman. The nominations were approved by a 4-0 vote.

Mr. Whitfield called for nominations for Vice-Chairman.

Mr. Weir nominated Mr. Nicholas for Vice-Chairman. The nominations were approved by a 4-0 vote.

Mr. Whitfield called for nominations for Secretary.

Ms. Crews nominated Mr. Weir for Secretary. The nominations were approved by a 4-0 vote.

ITEMS FOR PUBLIC HEARING

1. Request Certificate of Appropriateness, 2021-22, to restore 226 Jefferson Street. The proposed scope of work includes removing stairs and hand railing on the front porch; repairing front porch posts, railing, and trim; and removing the concrete in front of the stairs. The applicant will use wood, stone, and metal fasteners.

Mrs. Crews opened the Public Hearing.

Present to speak on behalf of this request was Duff Ramsey, owner of 226 Jefferson Street. Mr. Ramsey stated the stairs on the front porch obviously were not the original to the house. I think it would be a great improvement aesthetically to bring the front porch back like it should be, and removing the stairs and the hand rail, and the scope of that work also, it will lift the porch back up like it should be. The posts are set in concrete and the bottoms have gotten moist and rotted a little. The repair of that I would like to replace stone blocks about three inches tall under the posts to bring them up to the height, where the wood can breathe, and not be exposed to the moisture down in the concrete, then repair the trim, and remove the hand railing and bring the house back to what it was originally. Also, leading up to those stairs there is a four foot section of concrete maybe about three foot wide that you can barely make it out in the picture but I would like to remove that also.

Mr. Weller stated is that there from the sidewalk to the street?

Mr. Ramsey stated it goes from the sidewalk just to the steps right there.

Mr. Weir stated you want to remove that?

Mr. Ramsey stated if possible, there is also another concrete path that leads towards the main door on the ground floor. I would like to leave that. It would just seem odd to have concrete leading up to nothing.

Ms. Crews stated does staff want to read the elevation of this proposal?

Mr. Plachcinski stated we believe that it is in line with the period architectural of the building.

Ms. Crews stated staff has supplied the guidelines for residential structures to incorporate the scope of what the request is.

Mr. Weller stated that stairway, is that for the upper apartments?

Mr. Ramsey stated yes.

Mr. Weller stated are they still apartments?

Mr. Ramsey stated I am slowly trying to get back to a single-family dwelling. I was able to salvage a set of stairs out of a house on Pine Street that was demolished, and I am slowing working that into the house.

Ms. Sonja Ingram, with Preservation of Virginia, I am just wondering if there was a historic image of the house. I am just wondering what the house looked like originally.

Mr. Ramsey stated when I purchased the house in the packet from the city there was an architectural conception of what the house could have been. I have a picture on my phone of what it was from about 1940, if you want to see that.

Ms. Ingram stated I always wondered what that house look liked. I don't have a problem with it, and by looking at the application, there was nothing to compare it to.

Mr. Ramsey stated up the street and a good ways after it looks like a tornado has gone through. There is a truck kind of blocking the downstairs, which you can make out that the porch is definitely there but the stairs do not appear to be there.

Ms. Ingram stated are you removing the stairs at the top and which porch are you talking about?

Mr. Ramsey stated from the ground floor going to the second floor.

Ms. Ingram stated are you removing the porch?

Mr. Ramsey stated no, the stairs and the handrail.

Ms. Ingram stated I was just wondering about the application.

Mrs. Crews closed the Public Hearing.

Mr. Stowe made a motion to approve this request that it meets the guidelines as submitted. Mr. Weir seconded the motion. The motion was approved by a 4-0 vote.

2. Request Certificate of Appropriateness, 2021-23, to restore 855 Pine Street. The proposed scope of work includes removing the awning from above lower steps on the front porch, installing a picket fence on each side of the house, and repairing the driveway on the left of the house. The applicant will use wood, gravel, and metal fasteners.

Ms. Crews opened the Public Hearing.

Present to speak on behalf of this request was Duff Ramsey. Mr. Ramsey stated leading to the downstairs of the home there is a metal awning probably from the 1950's, which doesn't seem to add anything architectural to the style of the house, and we would like to remove that. Then on either side of the house about half way, back we would like to put in little sections of a picket fence just to give a fiscal structure to the back yard. There had been a driveway there and there are photos of it from ten years ago with cars parked there, we would like to have it where we can park there again if possible.

Ms. Crews stated staff found this is also within the guidelines am I correct?

Mr. Plachcinski stated that is correct.

Mr. Weller stated do you have an example of the picket fence?

Mr. Ramsey stated it is maybe 3 feet high with the little points on the end the wooden picket fence.

Mr. Weller stated standard?

Mr. Ramsey stated yes, probably for every 3 inches of picket have a 3-inch gap.

Mr. Weller stated the driveway, and I went by and looked at the property, and you said the driveway is to the left of the house?

Mr. Ramsey stated when you are looking at the house it is to the left.

Mr. Weller stated there is a driveway that is almost right up on the next house?

Mr. Ramsey stated I believe that driveway goes with the house. I think the neighbors might have been using it but we wanted to rather define that this is the driveway.

Mr. Weller stated what exactly is the repair?

Mr. Ramsey stated to put some gravel down.

Mr. Weller stated and the awning is awful.

Ms. Crews closed the Public Hearing.

Mr. Weller made a motion to approve this request that it meets the guidelines as submitted. Mr. Weir seconded the motion. The motion was approved by a 4-0 vote.

APPROVAL OF THE MINTUES

Mr. Weir made a motion to approve the December 10, 2020 minutes. The motion was approved by a unanimous vote.

OTHER BUSINESS

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 3:45 p.m.

Approved