

The Smithfield Board of Historic and Architectural Review held its regular meeting on Tuesday, May 15th, 2018. The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. Members present were Mr. Trey Gwaltney, Chairman; Mr. Chris Torre, Vice Chairman; Mr. Russell Hill, Mr. David Goodrich, and Mr. Gary Hess. Mr. Ronny Prevatte and Ms. Julia Hillegass was absent. The staff members present were Mr. Joseph R. Reish, Planning Technician and Mr. William H. Riddick III, Town Attorney. There were eight citizens present. The media was not represented.

Chairman Gwaltney – I would like to welcome everyone to the May meeting of the Board of Historic and Architectural Review. The first item on our agenda is the Planning Technician's Report.

Planning Technician – Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have two sign permits that were written to report. At 308 Main Street which was the former Pet and Persona, there was a detached sign permitted for the Nelms House after she received a special use permit approval a month or two ago. Also, at 206-C Main Street which was the former John Henry Printing is now a Laser Art Engraving Company, there was a window sign permitted. I noticed earlier that the fence that backs up to the fence at the Winery has been removed.

Chairman Gwaltney – Next on the agenda is the Upcoming Meetings and Activities. The list is provided for you to review. The next item on the agenda is Public Comments. We have no one signed up for public comments. Next is Board Member Comments.

Mr. Goodrich – The educational sub-committee that you appointed met at the end of the last meeting. We do have a report tonight.

Chairman Gwaltney – I think in the interest of applicants that are here tonight may have other things they prefer to do. We will table that until later in the meeting when they have all had the chance to make their presentation. Next on the agenda is a Window and Siding Replacement – 362 South Church Street-Contributing-Daniel Stanton & Joni Spear, applicants. Can we have staff report?

Planning Technician – Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This was tabled last month due to the lack of information about the window and the “Not Rot” composite siding. Basically they propose to replace the existing vinyl siding with some Hardie board and paint it light gray. The fascia and soffit will be material called “Not Rot”. They want to replace all of the existing wooden windows; they want to use a fiberglass window, black

in color. Two over one grid style with the PVC window trim. During this process they want to remove two of the windows on the left side and just cover it with Hardie board when they replace it.

Chairman Gwaltney – Is there anyone to speak on this application?

Ms. Joni Spear – I live at 362 South Church Street.

Mr. Daniel Stanton – I live at 362 South Church Street.

Ms. Spear – We are trying to restore the house and make it more appealing. We have selected to use Marvin Windows. We were told that if we use the integrity window, that is like what they use in Williamsburg. We are going to use black on the outside. The house is going to be gray Hardie board.

Planning Technician – Is the Hardie board color infused or you going to paint it?

Ms. Spear – I think we are going to remove the siding and then if the wood is salvageable we would have wood but otherwise we would have the color infused.

Mr. Stanton – We saw that under the siding one was just plywood and the other was actual wood. I do not know what the entire house will look like. We will leave the wood if it is salvageable.

Mr. Hill – They will have to make another application once they have determined that.

Planning Technician – They are here tonight just for the Hardie board replacement.

Mr. Hill – Well they just said they do not know if they are going to save the wood or put the Hardie board on.

Town Attorney – If they save the wood why would they have to have a separate application?

Chairman Gwaltney – Unless we approve the Hardie tonight and they have the option to do away with it I guess they would just keep the wood.

Mr. Hill – Okay.

Chairman Gwaltney – What we will do tonight is basically address the application to replace the wood with Hardie board. Then if you choose to not do that because you find it is acceptable to keep the wood you do not have to get approval to keep what is there.

Mr. Stanton – Okay.

Chairman Gwaltney – Then you can move on with the project doing the wood. If we approve it tonight then you would be approved to do the Hardie board.

Ms. Spear – Great.

Mr. Hess – I would be interested in seeing the window.

Mr. Stanton – It is made out of fiberglass material.

Mr. Hill – Is it a double hung window?

Mr. Hess – That window is four over four.

Chairman Gwaltney – I think they are doing two over one.

Mr. Stanton – Yes.

Mr. Hess – Does the screen roll up?

Mr. Stanton – It comes out.

Mr. Hill – Are you going to do full screens?

Ms. Spear – Yes.

Mr. Hill – You would put the one by four around the brick molding and the flat trim around it. They are very similar to what is on Mr. Riddick's house just a little bit different type of material.

Mr. Hess – You will not need the screens because you will not raise your windows on South Church Street.

Mr. Stanton – I found that out.

Town Attorney – Unless your air condition goes out like mine.

Mr. Stanton – I do not know if the windows were identified on the drawing to take down.

Planning Technician – Yes, Sir.

Mr. Stanton – One is downstairs and the other is upstairs. It will be where the refrigerator will go. We are going to build a closet.

Chairman Gwaltney – It is real close to the other house.

Mr. Stanton – Yes.

Mr. Hill – Is the "Not Rot" product a Home Depot product?

Mr. Stanton – I don't know.

Mr. Hill – I use a lot of products that are true PVC. They are solid plastic so they will not rot at all. This "Not Rot" is a pine board that is covered with some kind of paint.

Mr. Stanton – We are rebuilding the front porch as is.

Mr. Hill – It will still be painted white so whatever they prefer, it will be the same thing. It will not last as long as PVC but it will last a right good while. It looks the same so I am not going to tell her one way or the other. They can decide that.

Chairman Gwaltney – The other thing is the stoop.

Planning Technician – I forgot to mention the back stoop is going to be rebuilt the exact same configurations with the exception of the railing going from a horizontal slat to a vertical slat.

Chairman Gwaltney – Will it match the front?

Mr. Stanton – Yes.

Chairman Gwaltney – You are going from this to this and the style to match but it's not going to be painted like the front.

Mr. Stanton – We have not even got around to the back yet. We will come back.

Chairman Gwaltney – Painted would be good opposed to stain.

Mr. Stanton – It is going to be much different than what it is now. It is one of the large windows on the third floor in the back. The engineer told us we had to do that to make an escape.

Chairman Gwaltney – Will it be the same configuration as the rest of the windows?

Mr. Stanton – Yes.

Chairman Gwaltney – Are you doing the windows, sashes, and all of the dividers in black?

Ms. Spear – Yes.

Chairman Gwaltney – Is the trim of the house in white?

Ms. Spear – Yes.

Chairman Gwaltney – Are there any comments from the board?

Mr. Hill – Are the front porch railings going to be a composite material as well?

Mr. Stanton – It will be something different because it is rotten.

Chairman Gwaltney – The post should not be because they were put on about a year ago.

Ms. Spear – The post and railings should not be.

Mr. Hill – So it is going to stay four by four on the front porch like they are now.

Chairman Gwaltney – They were round and someone else replaced them with the square post. There was some discussion about the appropriateness of it but the

board allowed it. I don't think it was a unanimous decision to allow the square post. If you choose to replace them with something else you can consider round post. You would need to come before us to make a change on it.

Town Attorney – Why can't you approve it now?

Chairman Gwaltney – I kind of threw it out there to see how it goes.

Town Attorney – You are talking about it I see no need to make them come back.

Mr. Hill – What do you want on the porch?

Ms. Spear – I think architectural would look better round. When you look at the size of the house verses the size of the square.

Mr. Hess – It sounds like there is a couple of options they would like to keep open. One is the "Not Rot" verses PVC. It seems to me if we craft the motion appropriately we could give them the latitude on a couple of these options. One could be round post verses square post.

Mr. Hill – I would like to make a motion to approve as presented with the option of putting round post on the front porch and handrails must be a composite material or wood product on the front porch and no vinyl. The trim is their option. It could be PVC or "Not Rot" product. The appearance will look the same. The PVC will last longer but that is your option. If they restore the existing wood we will not have any complaints. Will it be a light gray whether you put Hardie board or restore the wood?

Mr. Stanton – Yes.

Chairman Gwaltney – As presented with those amendments.

Mr. Goodrich – Second.

Ms. Spear – Was the round post allowed or not allowed.

Chairman Gwaltney – They are allowed. It is their choice to leave it as it is or replace them with round post. A motion has been made and properly seconded to approve the application as presented with those options. All those in favor signify by saying aye, opposed say nay.

On call for the vote, seven members were present. Chairman Gwaltney voted aye, Mr. Goodrich voted aye, Mr. Hess voted aye, Mr. Hill voted aye, and Vice Chair Torre voted aye. There were no votes against the motion. The motion passed.

Chairman Gwaltney – Next on the agenda is a Wooden Platform Deck and Gazebo-113 Cary Street- Contributing- Adam and Angie Holland, applicants. Can we have staff report?

Planning Technician – Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This one should be a little bit easier than the last one, I hope. At 113 Cary Street Mr. & Mrs. Holland would like to build a twelve foot by sixteen foot wooden platform out of treated lumber in their backyard. They would like to set a gazebo on top of it. It is going to be a seasonal use gazebo. We typically don't look at things like seasonal use gazebo. It is going to be visible and she was coming tonight for the wooden platform, we thought we would let you see what it is going to look like. It is going to be in the backyard about five feet from the side property line like on the site plan. It is going to be a gazebo made with cloth canopy and curtains with a metal frame with wicker wrapped around it. They will put it up in the summer and take it down in the winter. The platform is going to be made with treated lumber. The picture I used; they may not necessarily do a pattern on the platform it could be just straight boards. This was just an example of the platform deck that I thought was pretty interesting.

Chairman Gwaltney – Do we have anyone to speak on this application?

Ms. Angie Holland – I live at 113 Cary Street. We are trying to level out the yard so we could enjoy our backyard. We are putting the gazebo up to have some shade. We have no trees. Our yard is on a slope so it is hard to put anything without leveling the area first.

Planning Technician – Right behind the back of the house used to be an area where there was a sand box and a play set that is where they would like to put the platform and gazebo. It is going to be in front of the shed on the far side close to the property line. Sorry about the easement survey that we had to use. We do not have an updated survey of her property. We didn't want her to pay a lot of money for a survey so we used this easement survey.

Chairman Gwaltney – Are there any comments from the board?

Planning Technician – The deck requires a zoning permit. We are going to treat it as an accessory structure. Since it is a standalone gazebo we treat it the same way. The actual gazebo itself is exempt from a permit.

Chairman Gwaltney – Are we basically approving the deck?

Planning Technician – A wooden deck is the main thing.

Town Attorney – You are not opining on the gazebo.

Planning Technician – I put it in there because she was providing us with a picture to show what was going to be on top of the platform.

Chairman Gwaltney – Are there any comments?

Mr. Hill – I would like to make a motion to approve as presented.

Mr. Goodrich – Second.

Chairman Gwaltney - A motion has been made and properly seconded to approve the application as presented. All those in favor signify by saying aye, opposed say nay.

On call for the vote, seven members were present. Chairman Gwaltney voted aye, Mr. Goodrich voted aye, Mr. Hess voted aye, Mr. Hill voted aye, and Vice Chair Torre voted aye. There were no votes against the motion. The motion passed.

Chairman Gwaltney – Next on the agenda is Demolish Existing House and Replace with New Construction House – 228 Clay Street - Contributing - Andrea Agle & Ryan Cere, applicants. Can we have a staff report?

Planning Technician – Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It is a contributing property. When we were in the process of doing the historic district designation recently we all questioned to why this was contributing. It was recommended to be non-contributing although it is not official yet. The house has some wear and tear to the vinyl siding. Mr. Cere and Mrs. Agle would like to demolish the existing house at 228 Clay Street. In your packet you can see the proposed new house they would like to build. They are proposing to use a charcoal or black architectural asphalt shingles. The main siding will be an engineered wood called “LP Smart Siding”, Colonial Gray in color. We may have to ask more questions about the “LP Smart Siding”. From my research it is an engineered wood product. Of course with it being an actual wood material it should look pretty much like wood. Some of the siding toward the gable roofs will be a PVC “foundry shakes”, Colonial Gray in color. The shutters will be color infused vinyl, black in color. The soffit will be vinyl and vented, white in color. The eaves and fascia will be wood wrapped in metal, white in color. The windows are vinyl double hung, white in color with six over six grid pattern. The window trim is vinyl “brick mold” style integrated into the windows. The front door will be steel painted red with white PVC “brick mold” trim. The front porch will either be stained or painted gray wood. The railing is going to be a treated wood banister with black metal aluminum balusters. The columns will be a stone veneer to top of the railings then wood painted white from the top of the railings to the porch roof. The rendering may be a little inaccurate as far as the size of the columns. They may look a little too large.

Mr. Cere – The appearance in that picture is a little bit more accurate.

Planning Technician – I know drawings can be difficult to work with. The foundation will be a cinder block with a white stucco finish. They are going to omit the deck in the rear for the time being.

Mr. Cere – Correct.

Planning Technician – They might come back later to ask to build the little deck in the rear out of treated lumber. If the board approves this application to include that option or they can request them to come back at a later date. Even if you can't see it from the road we may be able to administratively approve it. Looking at the site plan you can see the house will fit on the lot.

Chairman Gwaltney – Is there anyone to speak on this application?

Mr. Ryan Cere – I live at 132 Martin Street, Hampton.

Ms. Andrea Agle – I live at 132 Martin Street, Hampton.

Mr. Cere – When we bought the house we were hoping to do a renovation. We found out there is a lot of things that would not be feasible. There is no foundation. We are requesting to have the existing house demolished so we can put up a new structure. We want to be completely conforming to all of the board's needs. We do have budgetary retracts. I apologize for the rendering because it does not show everything one hundred percent accurate as a professional may have been able to present to you. The material list is accurate enough for you.

Chairman Gwaltney – It is not a bad job. I applaud your attempt. It is not as good as some but better than most probably.

Mr. Cere – Thank you.

Planning Technician – Probably a lot better than I can do.

Mr. Cere – Three weeks on the program.

Chairman Gwaltney – Are you an architect now?

Mr. Cere – I am not an architect now.

Chairman Gwaltney – Are there any comments from the board? There is a lot of vinyl on this house. The board is not really big on vinyl. I wish you had a sample of the stone veneer because the picture looks really strange to me. The description sounds like it is an interior product. I am assuming you checked to see if you are able to use it outside.

Mr. Cere – Yes.

Chairman Gwaltney – Is it like four by eight sheets?

Mr. Cere – No. It is a box of composite stone pieces shape for corners and other parts. You mortar it to the frame of the column and then grout the joints.

Chairman Gwaltney – In the picture I do not see any grout in there.

Mr. Cere – I apologize for the picture.

Chairman Gwaltney – If it has it that makes me feel a lot better. That is why I asked if it comes in sheets. The description of the Air Stone that I read it never mentioned anything about exterior use that is why I thought it may be a problem if you used it as an exterior product. You said you can use it on the exterior.

Mr. Cere – You install it as if it were brick.

Mr. Hess – How does the siding compare to Hardie board for example?

Mr. Cere – I'm not a vendor or professional in that way. My brother is a contractor. He doesn't like to work with Hardie because of the fibers and dust. It is a difficult product to work with. It damages easy. He is familiar with the "LP Smart Siding" because he uses it on the homes in Williamsburg. The research I did compared the two products. It stated that the "LP Smart Siding" is only been around for about twenty to thirty years. All of the feedback said it is cheaper, lighter, and comes in bigger sheets. That helps our budget. The composition is an OXB product. They treat the wood before they compress it. It gets compressed with a resin and sealed in resin to give the wood look. It will appear like Hardie board but it does not have any of the issues with the density of the cement board. It is also in bigger sheets so it is easier to install. It does not cost as much per sheet. It does not have the fiber issue where you have to wear a mask when we you are cutting the pieces. I shared the comparison sites with Mr. Reish. I didn't ask him to share that with the board but I am sure we can do that if we need to.

Mr. Hess – I cannot tell from the drawing but I made the assumption that it look like siding. Does it go on in six or eight sheets like siding?

Mr. Cere – It installs like Hardie board but you have the option of six or eight inches but it comes in sixteen foot lengths instead twelve foot.

Planning Technician – Is it individual boards?

Mr. Hill – It is the same thing as Hardie board.

Mr. Cere – There was one thing I could not render in regards to the siding that was the corner beads. It will be a white trim to match the fascia and soffit. That will change the look from what I rendered.

Mr. Hill – Is it a slab house?

Mr. Cere – No. It will be a block foundation.

Chairman Gwaltney – In the picture the windows are one over one. I think the one over one is appropriate for this craftsman style. Based on the front porch, columns, and stone I will call it a craftsman style. I think the one over one is more appropriate than the six over six. The six over six is more of a colonial style.

Mr. Cere – We have a whole house to worry about whether they are six over six or four over four doesn't matter. Just tell me we have windows then we are good.

Mr. Hess – I think the one over one looks better for that style. I share the Chairman's concern about the Air Stone as well. I am considering remodeling a fireplace so I was looking at that product. That is the only place I have ever seen Air Stone used is in the interior on a fireplace. It seems to be a very porous material to me unless they have come out with a new style.

Mr. Cere – I went in the store it had the all the information on the box. When I checked the samples it is a very light material but to my interpretation it is not porous.

Mr. Hess – I am no expert. I would just issue a word of caution on that because it seem to be very porous to me as a material on an exterior setting that would be problematic with water.

Mr. Cere – If it would please the board I am not stuck on that product. As long as the insulation and application of the finish look has the full stone with the grout lines.

Chairman Gwaltney – Everything in there just talks about how good you can use it on any supporting wall that is unseen. It adds textured and natural beauty to any room setting, non-flammable and safe around fireplaces. It just sounds like an interior product. Nothing says it will stand up in the rain. I am encourage when you said there will be mortar lines on it because the picture does not seem to show that. Just the insert of the stone itself it looks a little odd.

Mr. Hill – The picture doesn't do it justice. That looks like a half of a piece. Are the columns going to sit all the way on the ground or the porch?

Mr. Cere – They are going to the ground.

Mr. Hill – Are you going to run the porch on the inside or half way through the columns?

Mr. Cere – Yes on the corners. It will go half and half in the middle.

Mr. Hill – The material above the stone is that going to be the column part.

Mr. Cere – I am doing a cement cap.

Mr. Hill – I mean the rest of the way up.

Mr. Cere – The rest of the way up it will be a cement cap to cap off the stone then from the cement cap it will be wood.

Chairman Gwaltney – I would like to hear from some of the other board members about the PVC shake siding. Are there any opinions on that? I am not questioning the look as much as the material.

Town Attorney – It is not vinyl.

Chairman Gwaltney – No it is another type of plastic.

Mr. Hill – I think it is okay.

Town Attorney – It is different standards to do construction that is not immediately adjacent to a landmark. You cannot apply stricter standards to this type of construction as you would others. That is what the guidelines say.

Mr. Hill – The houses are pretty tight back there. It is not really visible. It looks like the front of the “A” is very small. Especially the left side of the house because it is beside the other house.

Mr. Cere – The front “A” on the rendering shows the roof that is not a true pitch for that porch roof. The gable would be a little larger on the front in terms what is exposed not the sides of the gable.

Mr. Hill – It is so tall you will not notice it.

Chairman Gwaltney – I just wanted to get some other members concerns.

Mr. Hill – Are you opposed to putting solid PVC trim on the house and Hardie soffit?

Mr. Cere – I am not opposed. It just comes down to our budget jumping from wood with wrap or even the “Not Rot”. The price is jumping four or five times for the PVC board.

Mr. Hill – There are several new houses on Washington Street and Riverview that have been done. All the trim on the houses are PVC verses vinyl soffit. I realize cost is a factor but it looks better and last longer. If you do the front columns out of a painted pine board in three or four years you will be replacing it. The climate in Virginia is tough on it.

Mr. Cere – I am not opposed to it. The only concern we have is the cost.

Mr. Hill – The PVC around the windows would look better. and we prefer to have one by four flat trim around them. Basically when you order your windows you would order windows with no brick molding on it and butt the flat trim to it.

Mr. Cere – So don't order windows with the brick molding built in.

Mr. Hill – Right.

Mr. Cere – Don't worry about PVC brick molding just butt the one by four to it.

Mr. Hill – Put the one by four around the window.

Mr. Cere – So that becomes your brick molding.

Mr. Hill – Yes. It gives you that same look. It is just flatter. The PVC brick molding on the windows is basically just plastic. Even though the PVC that you run is plastic as well but it is a solid PVC. But from the road or ten feet away it still looks like wood.

Mr. Cere – I am not opposed to either the fascia or wrapping for the windows. We have not been able to purchase anything so we don't know the full cost. When we buy in bulk we will be getting a discount from talking to the retailer. Absolutely for wrapping the one by four I do know that I can get around the cost for that material. The total cost on the fascia is what scares me from jumping to PVC.

Mr. Hill – I don't know how many square feet the house is. Just a trim package on a house for the exterior trim and soffit you are probably looking about forty-five thousand in material. It will not blow off in wind storms. It will be there forever. It can be a maintenance free house if you build that way. Especially if you are going to live there you will save money.

Chairman Gwaltney – You can get in touch with us to clarify some suggestions that were made if you have to ask later on.

Mr. Cere – If it would help to get the process started we would have no problem coming back in June to do a site report to show you where we are at. We will not be doing the soffit and siding in a month.

Mr. Hill – If you have the house demolished by then you will be doing good.

Mr. Cere – We will have a better idea of the prices of products once we have started the building.

Mr. Goodrich – If it would be appropriate I would recommend that we deal with demolish of the current residence. Once they have the information together to help make some decisions regarding some suggestions that were given by the board that

they come back with a package to build a house. It is going to take a while to demolish.

It is going to take a while to begin construction if we approve a new residence.

Chairman Gwaltney – I think we can split this application into two parts. We have done that before. I think they are two different parts.

Town Attorney – It is up to the board. I think Mr. Goodrich has a great idea to deal with demolish of the house because that requires a board action. Then perhaps you would give them general approval for their proposed house subject to further approval for their materials.

Mr. Cere – That would be the concerns for a timeline as we look at a foundation and framing.

Town Attorney – That does not deal with any of those issues.

Mr. Cere – Right. If we can proceed with those parts of the process for the final materials.

Planning Technician – Plus we will be able to begin the zoning permit process. I would be hesitate to begin a zoning permit process if we do not have anything to approve whatsoever.

Town Attorney – The first motion is going to be for demolition. That is the first piece of the puzzle.

Mr. Goodrich – I would like to make a motion to approve the request to demolish the residence at 228 Clay Street.

Mr. Hess – Second.

Chairman Gwaltney - Currently our packet says this is a contributing property but in our designation process the board downgraded it to non-contributing property. I don't think it is any issue making it non-contributing. Has Council approve the historic designation?

Planning Technician – No.

Chairman Gwaltney – Assuming that there will be no issues with Town Council approving the recommendations that the board made. This property will become non-contributing.

Town Attorney – If you approve demolition it will no longer be there.

Chairman Gwaltney – I am stating it for the record. If we wait long enough it will be.

Town Attorney – The board may take notice of its prior action to recommend that this property should be downgraded from contributing to non-contributing in making its final decision on whether or not to approve demolition.

Chairman Gwaltney - That was my whole point.

Town Attorney – That is valid but you had a very thoughtful deliberation when you went through the process of elevating these. Unless you changed your mind.

Chairman Gwaltney – We consider it to be non-contributing it just has not been approved.

Town Attorney – Exactly.

Chairman Gwaltney – I want everyone to realize we are approving demolish on what we consider to be a non-contributing property.

Town Attorney – Right.

Chairman Gwaltney - A motion has been made and properly seconded to approve demolish of the residence at 228 Clay Street. All those in favor signify by saying aye, opposed say nay.

On call for the vote, seven members were present. Chairman Gwaltney voted aye, Mr. Goodrich voted aye, Mr. Hess voted aye, Mr. Hill voted aye, and Vice Chair Torre voted aye. There were no votes against the motion. The motion passed.

Planning Technician – Don't tear it down until you get a demolition permit because there are stormwater concerns and other things we have to work through. If you clear the property with no permits then you have lost a lot of grandfathered stuff.

Mr. Goodrich – I would like to make a motion to approve the construction of a new residence at 228 Clay Street as proposed without specifics regarding building materials and ect.

Town Attorney – In general conformity with the proposed design subject to later approval of exterior materials. Does that work for the board?

Mr. Hill – Yes, Sir.

Mr. Hess – Second.

Chairman Gwaltney – A motion has been made and properly seconded to approve a house to be constructed with the proposed design subject to later approval of the exterior materials. All those in favor signify by saying aye, opposed say nay.

On call for the vote, seven members were present. Chairman Gwaltney voted aye, Mr. Goodrich voted aye, Mr. Hess voted aye, Mr. Hill voted aye, and Vice Chair Torre voted aye. There were no votes against the motion. The motion passed.

Chairman Gwaltney – Now you can get your permits from Mr. Reish to start tearing down. We would be glad to talk to you at any time if you need to. You can get on the agenda for June or July whenever you are ready to come back.

Mr. Cere – So far we are good to demo, start the foundation, and framing we just cannot clad the house on the exterior.

Chairman Gwaltney – I think that is where we are.

Planning Technician – The concept was approved in general conformity is what you have given us. I have made some pretty detailed notes about the board discussion to what they are looking for.

Town Attorney – If they get further than that by the June meeting it would be a world record in construction.

Chairman Gwaltney – Next on the agenda is a Front Porch and add Three Window-220 Astrid Street - Non-Contributing - Mary Donovan, applicant. Can we have a staff report?

Planning Technician – Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Ms. Donovan proposes to construct a four feet by twenty feet covered front porch to 220 Astrid Street. It is going to have architectural shingles, dark green/gray in color to match the existing shingles that were approved recently. The fascia will be Hardie board, white in color. The columns will be wood and painted white. The decking will be treated wood and painted colonial gray. The foundation will be cinder block and painted colonial gray. She would also like to replace the center front door. Previous approval gave her permission to move the door to the center on the front of the house. One of the center doors is going to be fiberglass with an oak grain texture, black in color. The mud room door or the one off to far left hand side will be steel and white in color with integrated mini-blind. She would also like to remove three attic vents. When she had her roof done she got some ridge vents. I hope you have soffit vents as well so air can flow. She is shaking her head yes. She would like to take three of the attic vents out and replaced them with windows to match the windows she received approval last month. In the packet you can see where the front porch is going and what the existing roof looks like. It will be the same material that is there. The picture with the gray color house is example from South

Church Street. You can see the four columns. She wants to build it just like the picture but with architectural shingles. The windows will be the same one over one pattern that she received approval for last month. A couple of the windows you will not be able to see but one you will be able to see from the street.

Ms. Donovan – It is only two of them.

Planning Technician – It is only two of them. I thought the center one was going to be replaced too but I guess not. Thank you for the clarification. It will be two windows that will be one over one.

Chairman Gwaltney – Do we have anyone here to speak on behalf of this application?

Ms. Mary Donovan – I own 220 Astrid Street. I currently live in Hampton. Mr. Reish pretty explained it all.

Chairman Gwaltney – Is there anything else you would like to tell us?

Ms. Donovan – He covered everything.

Chairman Gwaltney – Are there any comments from the board? The windows that are going in place of the vents in the attic you said will match the windows that you are putting in. Is that small window a one over one?

Ms. Donovan – Yes. They are twenty-one by twenty-seven. They are a little bit bigger than the attic vents but they are small windows.

Chairman Gwaltney – Is it still double hung?

Ms. Donovan – Yes. The attic space is seven and half feet tall. It is perfect for storage so I probably will put a floor down later. It would be nice to have some windows to open and have a little light. It is very dark in the attic.

Mr. Hess – I am a little confused about the configuration of the porch.

Ms. Donovan – The door is moving to the center. They have not done the framing yet. This is currently what it looks like.

Mr. Hess – So the porch is only going to be across the “A” frame.

Ms. Donovan – It is going to be continuous all the way across to match the block that is currently there. It is twenty feet.

Mr. Hess – Okay.

Ms. Donovan – It will come out four feet. Once the hip roof is on there will probably be two feet on each side that will be exposed.

Planning Technician – The setback is going to be really tight. But there are homes on Astrid Street that have zero front yard setbacks. Even though it is only going to be two and half feet from the property line once you add the zero into the setback and average it resets back to zero.

Mr. Hill – Are the steps coming off the front of the porch?

Ms. Donovan – Yes. The elevation slopes toward the house so as the porch comes out further. It will probably only need one or two steps to get on the porch instead of the four that it had.

Ms. Donovan – No. The steps will be close to the street. It will be a strip of grass then you step up two steps onto the porch. The whole thing slopes from the street all the way down.

Mr. Goodrich – I would like to make a motion to approve as presented.

Mr. Hess – Second.

Chairman Gwaltney - A motion has been made and properly seconded to approve the application as presented. All those in favor signify by saying aye, opposed say nay.

On call for the vote, seven members were present. Chairman Gwaltney voted aye, Mr. Goodrich voted aye, Mr. Hess voted aye, Mr. Hill voted aye, and Vice Chair Torre voted aye. There were no votes against the motion. The motion passed.

Chairman Gwaltney – Next we will have a report from Mr. Goodrich on Educational sub-committee recommendations.

Mr. Goodrich – The report explains some things that were discussed and would like the board to consider. We only had three recommendations but I broke a couple of them up into separate recommendations which it gave us five recommendations.

Town Attorney – Number five is very interesting. I don't know if we can do it or not. I am thinking there are all kinds of state requirements for disclosures. We can look into to that to see if we can do that locally or not. We may not be able to but it is a good idea.

Mr. Goodrich – There may be some if the board would approve tonight we can begin work on. You have all done a lot of work. I did not realize that you had done that much work because I was not on the board at the time. You have done a significant amount of work. There is a whole packet that Mr. Reish shared with us. We would like for the board to approve the distribution of a packet of information. If the board can

approve that tonight we can start getting the information out to the public, real-estate agents, contractors, libraries, and ect. We are asking the board to approve that tonight. There was some discussion about recognition of people that have gone through the process of restoring their home. We can use that as an educational tool. We were thinking that if we could have a form to fill out before the regular meeting we could invite the public but also invite people whose applications had been approved over a specific period of time and have completed the work. We could show pictures of completed work which would serve as incentive for anyone who might consider doing work on their historic properties. We did not talk about how often but maybe once a year or twice a year. If we talk to Mr. John Edwards at the Smithfield Times we could probably get a feature story. The advisory committee initially recommended to make themselves available to discuss with people who potentially want to do work on their homes. We had several questions tonight from people that we probably could guide them in the right directions. Something we would like to see but realize it may not be possible. We certainly would like Mr. Riddick to look into the possibility of doing it. We think these are some things that can get the ball rolling in educating property owners in the historic district and potential property owners in the historic district what we are all about.

Mr. Hess – I would like to share an unexpected comment I received from a real-estate agent, who is also a friend. During the conservation they were reminded that I am a board member for the Board of Historic and Architectural Review. The comment was they just sold a property in the historic district. How do I make sure there is not some outstanding requirement with it? I told them to talk to Mr. Reish or Mr. Saunders. I think that is a question you should have asked before you closed on the property. That is another good reason for us to find some way to correspond with the real-estate agents in the historic district.

Mr. Goodrich – When we bought our first home on South Church Street we were never told by the selling agent, home owner, or by our agent that the house was in the historic district and there were historic ordinances that went along with it. We were frankly surprised.

Town Attorney – They were told not to do that. They do not want to bring up anything that might sway a buyer.

Planning Technician – Not to belittle the historic concern at all but resource protection area is one of the big ones for the planning and zoning too. People will buy

house to have water front property then they want to build things in their backyard. They come to us wanting to do something then we have to say sorry you cannot. There is nothing worse than getting off on the wrong foot with a new resident. They are excited to move to town. They start hammering nails or painting then I see what is going on thinking oh no we have to send them a letter. So their very first experience dealing with local government is a violation letter from the planning department. That is a horrible way to start off a community relationship with a new resident.

Chairman Gwaltney – That is a valid point. It is always tough to go back and make that first impression again. I think this sounds great. I think it is well on its way to achieving a lot of the goals that were talked about a couple years ago. We sort of table all of this when we went through the designation process. Mr. Riddick, is this the kind of thing that needs a motion of approval or just continue to work in our committee.

Town Attorney – I do not think you need a motion at this point. You just need to know if it is consensus of the board that these are things that you want to do and direct staff and yourselves to move in that direction.

Chairman Gwaltney – I'm all in favor of doing that. Is there a nodding of heads in agreement that move ahead with doing this? I would like to leave it to the committee to decide the best way to handle this if you want to break it apart and assign different things to a person or collectively work on it. I think this is the point where the rest of the board members could be selected to help on some of this.

Town Attorney – I looking at the town's website. There is a newcomer's guide but then there is a link to Planning and Zoning but there is nothing that specifically mentions the historic district.

Mr. Hill – That is a good idea because people look on the town's website.

Mr. Hess – Maybe we could get Mr. Flores to incorporate something on the website because that gets a longer shelf life than a weekly newspaper. I think Mr. Flores would be supportive of that because he is really big on the history of Smithfield.

Mr. Goodrich – We even discussed about making a one page flyer. I think Mr. Saunders developed one but it probably needs to be updated a little bit. Even putting the flyer in the quarterly Smithfield Newsletter so we know everybody in Smithfield whether you are in the historic district or not would get it.

Mr. Hill – We have a lot of folks that live in Hampton and Newport News that buy these houses and it is six to eight months before they move here so they would not get

a newsletter. People are so tech savvy these days they are looking up everything. It would help this lady and other folks from Hampton to be able to see it on the website.

Mr. Goodrich – When you sign up for water service if the treasurer's office could hand out flyers. There are all types of ways to get information out.

Chairman Gwaltney – I know we have talked about mailing something out to property owners whether they live at the property or lease out. He stated that he talked to Ms. Hunter in the treasurer office about coming up with addresses for property owners in the historic district.

Mr. Goodrich – I think we need to brain storm on how to get the information out.

Chairman Gwaltney – I am going to suggest Mr. Goodrich take it to the next level to have a discussion on either target a couple of things that you could manage right away or distribute the duties to others. You have good ideas so now let's get a plan on how to make them start to happen. I am glad to see it started again.

Chairman Gwaltney - Next on the agenda is Approval of the March 20th, 2018 meeting minutes.

Town Attorney – Chairman, I recommend approval of the March 20, 2018 meeting minutes.

Mr. Hess – So moved.

Mr. Hill – Second.

Chairman Gwaltney - A motion has been made and properly seconded to approve the minutes from the March 20th, 2018 meeting. All those in favor signify by saying aye, opposed say nay.

On call for the vote, seven members were present. Chairman Gwaltney voted aye, Mr. Goodrich voted aye, Mr. Hess voted aye, Mr. Hill voted aye, and Vice Chair Torre voted aye. There were no votes against the motion. The motion passed.

Chairman Gwaltney – Next is the Approval of the April 17th, 2018 meeting minutes.

Town Attorney – Chairman, I read with interest the April 17th, 2018 meeting minutes there was quite a lot of jostling about motions but seem to make sense so I would recommend approval.

Mr. Hess – So moved.

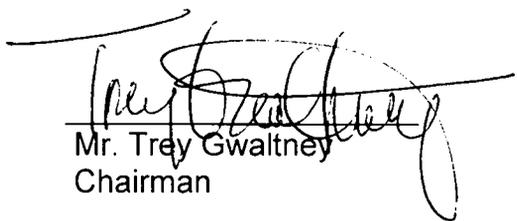
Mr. Goodrich – Second.

Chairman Gwaltney - A motion has been made and properly seconded to approve the minutes from the April 17th, 2018 meeting. All those in favor signify by saying aye, opposed say nay.

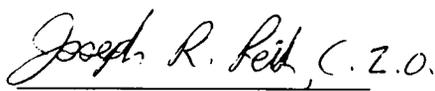
On call for the vote, seven members were present. Chairman Gwaltney voted aye, Mr. Goodrich voted aye, Mr. Hess voted aye, Mr. Hill voted aye, and Vice Chair Torre voted aye. There were no votes against the motion. The motion passed.

Chairman Gwaltney – Our meeting is adjourned.

The meeting adjourned at 7:55 p.m.



Mr. Trey Gwaltney
Chairman



Mr. Joseph Reish
Planning Technician