

**HISTORICAL ARCHITECTURE REVIEW BOARD  
BELLEFONTE BOROUGH  
MEETING MINUTES**

**December 10, 2019 - 8:30 a.m.  
236 West Lamb Street, Bellefonte, PA 16823  
[www.bellefonte.net](http://www.bellefonte.net)**

**CALL TO ORDER:**

The December 10, 2019 regular meeting of the Bellefonte Borough Historical Architecture Review Board (HARB) was called to order by Mr. McGinley at the Bellefonte Borough Municipal Building at 8:30 a.m.

**ROLL CALL:**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Pat Long  
Sam McGinley  
Walt Schneider (late arrival)  
Gay Dunne  
Maria Day  
Robert Lingenfelter

**EXCUSED:** Megan Tooker

**STAFF MEMBERS:** Shannon Wright, HARB Administrator

**GUESTS:** Gary Hoover  
Susan Hoover  
Dan Mattern  
Dave O'Shell

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**ADDITIONS /CORRECTIONS TO THE AGENDA:**

None.

**DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST:**

None.

**DECLARATION OF EX PARTE COMMUNICATION:**

None.

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:**

**Mr. Lingenfelter moved to approve the minutes of the November 12, 2019 HARB meeting.**  
**Ms. Day seconded the motion.**  
**Motion carried.**

**PROJECT REVIEW AND PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

**125 North Spring Street – Porch Addition**

Dave O'Shell, Governor of the Moose Club presented the porch addition project to HARB members. There has been some conversations for years about putting a deck on the back side of the building. They would like to do this as they are financially able to put the deck in at this time.

They will be building the deck within the current footprint of the existing structure. The Moose is right at the top of the hill on Spring Street looking out over Water Street in the rear. The deck would improve the view of the building from Water Street. Additionally, there is a two-story wall there that may benefit from a mural.

The proposed location is the southwest corner of the existing building. None of the setback lines will be encroached upon. The deck is proposed to be about 12 foot by 20 foot. There is an old barbeque pit that will be removed to accommodate the deck. There is an existing window and that is where they will break through and install the access door. There will be a ramp to get up to that part of the building. The color of the proposed deck will match the light yellow of the Moose. The steel would be painted dark. That would support the new deck.

There will not be access to the deck from the outside. The building material for the deck is hardy board siding. The deck will be screened in. A railing will not be required.

The roof will be membrane roof with a low slope because they are limited with intersecting with the base roof elevation that exists. The roof will not be visible.

**Mr. Schneider moved to approve the project as presented.**  
**Ms. Day seconded the motion.**

The mural was discussed briefly. This project will come back to HARB for discussion and approval when before it is installed.

**Motion carried unanimously.**

This project will go before Borough Council on Monday, for review and approval.

## **Bellefonte Street Tablet Project**

Mr. Gary Hoover came before HARB to present on the tablet project. The project was imagined when the chamber organized a bus trip to Brookville which is similar to Bellefonte. They have street tablets to document their historical buildings. The project was initially funded by a \$5,000 grant from Centre County and additionally, HBI, put some funding toward it as well as the Moose Lodge. The project has been underway for a few years and four of the tablets that have been designed and construction have been installed.

The project is starting with the oldest buildings. The tablet is standard construction and vandal resistant. The tablets are manufactured by S.H. Group and Alto out of Farmington. The construction of the signs shown in Brookville are single post. Mr. Hoover also presented one of the Bellefonte tablets that have been installed. The Borough has been installing the signs as available.

When the project started, they were not informed that they needed HARB approval. As soon as they received that information, they were placed on the agenda. Six more signs are ready to be installed.

For the courthouse, the ideal placement for the sign would be on the diamond across the street from the courthouse. Another choice would be near the flagpole. The blacksmith shop does not exist anymore but that was one of the first structures in the community. The street tablet for that would show people what they can no longer see standing. The property owner has given permission to place the tablet on the front lawn where it can be seen from the sidewalk.

The Dunlap Street House tablet will be placed in front of the structure. The Union Cemetery tablet will be placed behind the gatehouse. The gatehouse is also historical and there will be a tablet there as well.

The meek house is another structure that does not exist anymore. The location would be the CVS and the Borough parking lot. The house once stood there, and the tablet can educate passersby of what once stood at that site. The Bellefonte Academy is also ear-marked for a tablet.

**Mr. Schneider moved to approve the project as a whole,  
and to allow the administrator to make further approval  
as to specific locations and content.  
Ms. Long seconded the motion.**

Ms. Day discussed the single post tablets and offered that there was discussion prior regarding corners not being safe. Mr. Hoover had called around to the other municipalities and they have never had any safety issues. They are the standard design in place in hundreds of communities across the nation. The manufacturer was recommended by the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission.

Mr. Schneider offered that safety would be an issue for the Bellefonte administration or public works and not HARB.

Mr. Lingenfelter inquired about tablets being located in the right of way. He recommended PennDOT considerations for public access routes. This relates to accessibility and obstructions within those access routes.

Mr. Lingenfelter inquired about who would maintain the tablets. Mr. Hoover stated that at they are designed to be weather and vandal resistant and should require very little maintenance.

Mr. Schneider stated that he would consider putting all the markers on the opposite side of the street from the structure. It will always be in the right of way and access will not be blocked by property owners. For future signs, he would recommend QR codes so that persons can scan the code for more information. This would also help those visually impaired giving audio summaries of the structures. Mr. Hoover concurred. The coding information project may be a public service project for a volunteer organization or high school student for research on the structure for the additional digital summaries.

Brass plaques were approved at a prior HARB meeting. The plaques are in addition to the tablet project.

The interior of the railroad station was discussed briefly.

**Motion carried unanimously.**

**ADMINISTRATIVE APPROVAL:**

**203 N. Spring Street – Repointing and Side Door Reconditioning**

Ms. Wright discussed the project at the Library and Historical Museum. This was for repointing the front stone steps and reconditioning the side entry door. Both were in-kind.

**INFORMATION AND DISCUSSION ITEMS:** Nothing presented.

**OLD BUSINESS:** Nothing presented.

**NEW BUSINESS:** Nothing presented.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

With no other business to come before HARB,

**Mr. Schneider moved to adjourn.**

**Ms. Long seconded the motion.**

**Motion carried.**

Meeting adjourned at 9:07 a.m.