

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

**September 22, 2020 - 8:30 a.m.
236 West Lamb Street, Bellefonte, PA 16823
www.bellefonte.net**

CALL TO ORDER:

The September 22, 2020 regular meeting of the Bellefonte Borough Historical Architecture Review Board (HARB) was called to order by Mr. McGinley at 8:30 a.m. Members met virtually due to Covid-19 restrictions.

ROLL CALL:

MEMBERS PRESENT: Sam McGinley
Gay Dunne
Pat Long
Megan Tooker
Maria Day

EXCUSED: Nichole Mendinsky
Robert Wagner

STAFF MEMBERS: Ralph Stewart, Borough Manager

GUEST: Joanne Tosti-Vasey
Frank Harpster

ADDITIONS /CORRECTIONS TO THE AGENDA: Mr. Stewart added an application at 247 ½ North Spring Street. Frank Harpster was on the zoom call.

DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST: None.

DECLARATION OF EX PARTE COMMUNICATION: None.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:

Ms. Dunne moved to approve the minutes of the September 22, 2020 HARB meeting, as amended.

Ms. Day seconded the motion.

Motion carried.

PROJECT REVIEW AND PUBLIC COMMENTS:

413 West High Street – Fence

Mr. Stewart explained the project to members of HARB. The property owner is a schoolteacher so she could not attend the meeting. The project entailed installation of a fence around the backyard. It will be 6 feet tall and have a walk-in gate at the rear of the fence. The property owner prefers to leave it natural and unpainted but would consider paint or stain if that was the recommendation of HARB. Pictures were shown.

Ms. Tooker commented that her neighbor put a fence up similar to the project, and they did not stain it at first. The moisture caused the boards to twist so they went back and sealed it. It still does not look right. She believed they purchased their fence at Lowes. Ms. Tooker also had concern about how far she was going back. Going all the way to the alley may affect sight distance. It is visible from the alley. Ms. Dunne stated that the fence would be visible from Thomas Street. There is a similar fence to the east of the property in question. Mr. McGinley stated that he could see the need for privacy due to the alley. Ms. Dunne liked the natural look and thought it fit into the area.

Ms. Tooker stated that HARB should give the homeowner the choice to stain it or not. Water resistance may be advised.

Ms. Tooker moved to approve the fence as proposed and to leave it up to the homeowner if she wants to stain to help preserve the fence.

Ms. Dunne seconded the motion.

Motion carried.

247 ½ North Spring Street

This is at the rear of the municipal parking lot. There is an unordained right of way. Mr. Harpster was on the call. He proposed putting in blocks. Frank Harpster discussed the bad condition of the wall. The retaining wall behind the tree was built from railroad ties and it was damaged and falling apart. He contacted a company about having a wall built and they recommended doing the lower wall as well. There is a split in the wall, and it is pushing towards the municipal lot and as well as to the right. He gave block options for HARB to view.

The reasoning for the blocks was time and cost. The wall will not last another winter. Mr. McGinley was for the project given the location of the property. The house is behind another house. It does not have a street view.

The blocks have a swept design and are only 5-6 inches at the face so that they can be backfilled over the top. That provides less gapping. There will be grass in between some of the blocks. He Mr. Harpster did the demo of the existing wall. There will be a grass yard in front of the wall all the way up. The upper area is a parking area.

The concrete steps are in good condition and the wall is good there. The removed tree was discussed briefly.

**Ms. Dunne moved to approve the construction of two stone walls to replace railroad tie walls as presented.
Ms. Tooker seconded the motion.
Motion carried.**

ADMINISTRATIVE APPROVAL: Nothing presented.

INFORMATION/DISCUSSION ITEMS: Nothing presented.

OLD BUSINESS: The waterfront project obtained their NPDES permit renewal and remain optimistic about starting the project. They are looking at grant funding for the parking garage.

NEW BUSINESS: The High Street Shoppes has some new paint on the side and Mr. Stewart did not find any record of this paint being approved. He will contact the property owner.

ADJOURNMENT:

With no other business to come before HARB,

**Ms. Day moved to adjourn.
Ms. Tooker seconded the motion.
Motion carried.**

Meeting adjourned at 9:01 a.m.