

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

**January 26, 2021 - 8:30 a.m.
236 West Lamb Street, Bellefonte, PA 16823
www.bellefonte.net**

CALL TO ORDER:

The January 26, 2021 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* via Zoom.

ROLL CALL:

MEMBERS PRESENT: Sam McGinley
Megan Tooker
Maria Day
Gay Dunne
Walt Schneider

EXCUSED: Pat Long
Nichole Mendinsky

STAFF MEMBERS: Ralph Stewart, Borough Manager
Guests: Al Drobka, Joanne Tosti-Vasey

ADDITIONS /CORRECTIONS TO THE AGENDA: None.

DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST: None.

DECLARATION OF EX PARTE COMMUNICATION:

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:

Ms. Dunne moved to approve the minutes of the December 22, 2020 HARB meeting.

Ms. Day seconded the motion.

Motion carried.

PROJECT REVIEW AND PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Exterior Fire Escape – 114 North Allegheny Street, Al Drobka, AICP

Mr. Drobka briefed HARB members on the history of the structure. The structure(s) contain apartments and needed to be sprinklered. Due to insufficient water pressure, that was not feasible. The fire escape was an alternative to the sprinklers. Photographs were shown to HARB members. The fire escape is proposed to be a wooden staircase. Everything meets code, per Mr. Drobka. The fire escape decking will be extended to the window to create a door escape. The supports will remain the same, with the extension to the window being the only change. A window can no longer be used as a means of egress so a door will be installed in the window opening.

Mr. Schneider inquired about the two tax parcels of each of the buildings. The garage is at 108 North Allegheny. There are two issues – one regarding the code setback for combustible material and the issue of approaching the edge of the property. The escape will be linking two buildings with two different tax parcels. The properties should be consolidated and that can be done through zoning, perhaps through an easement. Mr. Schneider also discussed the twelve-inch main that runs under Allegheny Street. The courthouse was just sprinklered so this may be an option without the need for a fire pump, as first thought. There may also be an issue with the distance to the power lines. Allegheny can refuse service.

Mr. Schneider moved to recommend approval of the extension with modifications to be handled by staff.

Ms. Day seconded the motion.

Ms. Dunne inquired about lighting for the fire escape. Emergency lighting is provided outside the door of each unit and as you decline the stairway and around the corner, all is lit via emergency lighting. Ms. Tooker confirmed that the opening for the door and the trim will remain the same. A fire shutter will also be installed. Mr. Schneider explained that when the fusible link gets hot enough from a fire, the link will fuse and release the shutter making it come across the window and gives protection to the fire escape by blocking the escape from fire.

Motion carried unanimously.

ADMINISTRATIVE APPROVAL: Nothing presented.

Mr. Stewart mentioned that Verizon will begin the work on the fence and bollard work that HARB recommended. The Gamble Mill signs are being manufactured, per HARB specifications. Mr. Stewart will go to the site during installation to assure they are being installed correctly. The waterfront project was discussed briefly. A few changes may render the need for the plan to come to HARB in the near future.

INFORMATION/DISCUSSION ITEMS: Nothing presented.

OLD BUSINESS: Nothing presented.

NEW BUSINESS:

Historical Ordinance Review. This will be discussed when new personnel is in place.

ADJOURNMENT:

With no other business to come before HARB,

Mr. Schneider moved to adjourn.

Ms. Dunne seconded the motion.

Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 9:05 a.m.