

HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

August 26, 2008

Be it remembered that the Oxford Historic Preservation Commission did meet in regular session on Tuesday, August 12, 2008, at 5:30 p.m. in the City Hall courtroom with the following members present:

Cody Giles, Chairman
Jeff Asti
Camp Best
Kevin Frye
John Morgan King
Jack McKenzie

Tim Akers, City Planner
Katrina Hourin, Assistant City Planner
Tiffany Hatcher, Historic Preservation Consultant
Alicia Thompson, Secretary

The following members were absent:

Molissia Swaney
Harry Owens

The meeting was called to order by Commissioner Giles.

After the meeting was called to order, the following business was transacted:

Motion was made by Commissioner Asti and seconded by Commissioner Best to accept the minutes from July 8, 2008.

All present voting aye.

The motion was approved.

REGULAR AGENDA

There came for discussion **Case #044 – 919 Buchanan Avenue**. Ben Walker came before the Commission seeking a Certificate of Appropriateness to construct a fence in the rear of property located at 919 Buchanan Avenue. Mr. Walker presented the Commission with drawings, photos of the site, and the types of materials to be used in constructing the fence. He also informed the Commission that he was granted a fence height variance while renovating the home. Mr. Walker also explained that he had spoken with adjoining property owners, Bruce & Kristin Newman, about constructing the fence. He stated that he and the Newmans had reached an agreement on the type of fence to be constructed, but that an agreement could not be reached as to when construction on the fence could begin. Questions came from the Commission regarding the conflicts between Mr. Walker and the Newmans. Mr. Walker provided further information surrounding the conflicts between him and the adjoining property owners. Questions came from

Commissioner Best to Mr. Walker asking which property line the fence would be constructed on. Mr. Walker replied that the fence would be constructed along his property line at his own expense. Katrina Hourin presented the Commission with a letter of objection that she had received by email from Kristin Newman earlier in the day. Commissioner Asti stated that he felt the Commission should accept the objection from Ms. Newman and make a determination based upon the Commission's guidelines. Further discussion was made between the Commission and Mr. Walker regarding the objections from the adjoining property owners. Comments also came from Commissioner Asti that the request seemed to comply with the Historic Preservation Ordinance.

There being no further questions from the public or the Commission, motion was made by Commissioner Asti and seconded by Commissioner Frye to approve the request for a Certificate of Appropriateness to construct a fence in the rear of property located at 919 Buchanan Avenue.

All present voting aye.

The motion was approved.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS FOR 2008-2009

Tim Akers informed the Commission that elections for officers for 2008-2009 should be held. Discussion was made that the Cody Giles should remain as Chairman of the Oxford Historic Preservation Commission.

There being no further questions or comments from the public or the Commission, motion was made by Commissioner Asti and seconded by Commissioner McKenzie to nominate Cody Giles as Chairman of the Oxford Historic Preservation Commission for 2008-2009.

All present voting aye.

The motion was approved.

Discussion was also made that Jeff Asti be nominated as Vice Chairman of the Oxford Historic Preservation Commission.

There being no further questions or comments from the public or the Commission, motion was made by Commissioner Best and seconded by Commissioner King to nominate Jeff Asti as Vice Chairman of the Oxford Historic Preservation Commission for 2008-2009.

All present voting aye.

The motion was approved.

Discussion of Demolition by Neglect

Historic Preservation Consultant, Tiffany Hatcher, informed the Commission that the presentation on the procedures for Demolition by Neglect was not presented to the Mayor and Board of Aldermen at its August 5, 2008 meeting. She stated that the presentation was not made because of objections to the procedures for demolition by neglect by the Courthouse Square

Preservation Commission. Discussion was made between Ms. Hatcher and the Commission regarding the Courthouse Square Preservation Commission objections to the procedures on demolition by neglect. She also stated that a work session would be held on August 14, 2008 at 8:30 a.m. to work through those objections. Lengthy discussion was made between the Commissioners regarding the objections of the Courthouse Square Preservation Commission. Commissioner Asti expressed his disagreement with the objections of the Courthouse Square Preservation Commission. Commissioner Giles commented that the guidelines for demolition by neglect should be the same for both the Oxford Historic Preservation Commission and the Courthouse Square Preservation Commission. Tim Akers informed the Commission that the reason for the work session is to get a clear understanding of the Courthouse Square Preservation's objections to the guidelines for demolition by neglect. Mr. Akers also stated that a distinction should be made between contributing and non contributing structures before demolition. Commissioner Asti argued that there should not be a delay in the presentation solely due to the Courthouse Square Preservation Commission's objections.

Comments also came from Mayor Richard Howorth that the Courthouse Square Preservation Commission was only interested in revisiting the procedures on demolition by neglect. Concerns also came from Commissioner King that vacant space would be left if structures were demolished in a Historic District which would in turn decrease property values. Ms. Hatcher urged the Commissioners to attend the work session if possible to voice their concerns. She also urged the Commissioners to submit any concerns to her to present at the work session if they could not attend. Further debate was made between Commissioner Asti and Commissioner Giles on the governing of demolition by neglect. Comments also came from Commissioner McKenzie stating that he was against setting different guidelines of demolition by neglect for the Oxford Historic Preservation Commission and the Courthouse Square Preservation Commission. Comments also came from Commissioner King that there should be separate guidelines for the two commissions.

HPC Consultant Tiffany Hatcher informed the Commission that it should speed up the process to set procedures for demolition by neglect and recommended that further discussion take place at the next regularly scheduled meeting.

There being no further business to come before the Commission, motion was made by Commissioner King and seconded by Commissioner Best to adjourn the meeting.

All present voting aye.

The meeting was adjourned.