

A regular meeting of the Bath Planning Board was called on 3-3-09 for the purpose of conducting regular business.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Bob Oxton, Chair
James Hopkinson, Vice Chair
Andy Omo
Paul Fraser
Carolyn Lockwood
Donald Rogers
Kean McDermott (non-voting student member)
Ashley McDougall (non-voting student member)

MEMBERS ABSENT

Amy Fitzpatrick

STAFF PRESENT

Jim Upham, Planning Director
Marsha Hinton, Recording Secretary

Mr. Oxton, Chair, called the meeting to order in the third floor City Council Chambers at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, March 3, 2009.

Minutes of the February 17, 2009, meeting

MR. HOPKINSON MOVED, SECONDED BY MS. LOCKWOOD, TO ACCEPT THE PLANNING BOARD MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 17, 2009, AS SUBMITTED.

UNANIMOUS APPROVAL**Old Business****Item 1**

Request for Historic District Approval – enlarge the decks, and install awnings and make other façade changes; 99 Commercial Street (Map 26, Lot 272); New BathPort, LLC, applicant (Continued from the December 2, 2008, meeting.)

Mr. Upham stated that he has had communication with the applicants' representative, who has asked that this agenda item be withdrawn. Mr. Upham added that the applicant will resubmit at a later date.

New Business**Item 1**

Request for Historic District Amendment - 1065 Washington Street (Map 21, Lot 197); Deborah & Al Branca, applicants.

Mr. Upham announced that Planning Board member Andy Omo has recused himself from consideration of this agenda item because of his relationship with the representative of the applicants.

Mr. Jamie Omo, representative for the applicants, stated that the applicants were before the Planning Board asking for an amendment to the previous approval. Mr. Omo explained that the applicants were seeking to replace the existing balusters with a style that they thought was more in keeping with the period of the house. Mr. Omo added that all other elements on the porch would be repaired and retained. Mr. Omo described the research efforts of the applicants to find the appropriate period balusters. He told the Board that the balusters would be like those on the porch at the Inn at Bath.

The Planning Board discussed the design, the manufacture, height, comments from City Staff, and the lack of any information on the original balusters.

Ms. Lockwood stated that she was uncomfortable with copying the balusters from another structure and that the current balusters while not period were part of the history of the house. Ms. Lockwood pointed out that part of the charm of a historic district was the individuality of the structures.

Mr. Hopkinson suggested that since he was not an architectural historian that written comments from the Historic District Architectural Review Committee (HDARC) would be appropriate.

MR. ROGERS MOVED, SECONDED BY MR. HOPKINSON, TO APPROVE THE REQUEST FOR HISTORIC DISTRICT AMENDMENT AT 1065 WASHINGTON STREET (MAP 21, LOT 197) FOR DEBORAH & AL BRANCA, APPLICANTS, CONDITIONED UPON RECEIPT OF COMMENTS FROM HDARC AND APPROVAL BY THE CITY HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMITTEE.

UNANIMOUS APPROVAL

Other Business

Mr. Upham announced that a public meeting to take comments from members of the public on the City of Bath Comprehensive Plan would be held next Tuesday, March 10, 2009, in the City Council Chambers at 6:00 pm. Mr. Upham encouraged citizens of Bath to either come to City Hall or go to the City's website www.cityofbath/bath_planning to get a copy of the Bath Comprehensive Plan to read prior to the public meeting.

There being no further business before the Board, **MR. HOPKINSON MOVED, SECONDED BY MR. ROGERS, TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 6:22 PM.**

UNANIMOUS APPROVAL

Minutes prepared by Marsha Hinton, Recording Secretary