

## **HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMITTEE**

70 Maple Street  
Manistee, MI 49660

### **MEETING MINUTES**

May 6, 2020

A meeting of the 2020 Historic District Committee was held on Wednesday, May 6, 2020 at 4:00 pm by teleconferencing, Manistee, Michigan.

The meeting was called to order at 4:07 by Chair Trucks followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Members Present:** Dick Albee, William Connor, Kathryn Levy, Ron Helmboldt, Dennis Otto, and Lee Trucks

**Members Absent:** Debra Greenacre

**Others:** Mike Szokola (City Zoning/Planner 1) and Nancy Baker (Recording Secretary)

#### **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

MOTION by Commissioner Albee, seconded by Commissioner Otto to approve the Agenda as printed.

With a voice vote motion passed 6 to 0.

#### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

MOTION by Commissioner Albee, seconded by Commissioner Levy to approve the March 4, 2020 minutes as printed.

With a voice vote motion passed 6 to 0.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA RELATED ITEMS**

None

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

Do Not Enter Sign Presentation – Dennis terHorst: DDA design committee member

Mr. terHorst presented a packet which included a resolution and pictures of the current Do Not Enter signs that are posted on the stone pillars on the corner of Maple and River Street. He is seeking support from the HDC on sign changes. A supported resolution from the HDC for sign changes would be presented to the DDA design committee chair and the DDA chair. The goal is to remove the current signs and replace them with more historically designed signs. The sign

cost would be handled by the DDA. The Manistee City Department of Public Safety would be contacted to remove the current signs and put up new signs.

The HDC has no authority on traffic signage.

MOTION by Commissioner Albee, seconded by Commissioner Connor to support passing the resolution as it reads.

With a voice vote the motion passed 6 to 0 to adopt the resolution.

#### **OLD BUSINESS**

##### Permit Form Update

Mr. Szokola stated the project at 354 River Street has been completed

MOTION by Commissioner Connor, seconded by Commissioner Albee to close the 354 River Street permit.

With a voice vote motion passed 6 to 0.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENTS AND COMMUNICATIONS CONCERNING ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA**

None

#### **CORRESPONDENCE**

None

#### **REPORTS**

##### DDA Executive & Economic Development Director

None

##### Museum Director

Mark Fedder had no report.

##### Zoning Administrator

Mr. Szokola researched outstanding and open permits. He explained the difference between them. The HDC requested all permits be included on the permit list in order to track their progress and status.

With the inability to receive audio, Ms. Levy left the meeting session.

Mr. Jeff Gordon contacted Mr. Szokola regarding his permits for 347/349/411 River Street. Mr. Szokola requested Mr. Gordon submit a packet by April 28<sup>th</sup> for the May 6<sup>th</sup> meeting. Mr.

Gordon did not respond by the deadline. Mr. Gordon made contact after the deadline and stated work has been on hold due to the Coronavirus.

#### **MEMBERS DISCUSSION**

Mr. Albee stated the virus has been affecting things for a few months and Mr. Gordon's permits were extended months before this. Mr. Gordon has had time to complete this project and has not complied. These permits have been open for 10 years.

Mr. Trucks stated the HDC is concerned with only the exterior of the building. If the permit expires and the work is not complete the properties will be considered blighted.

The HDC requested Mr. Szokola contact Mr. Gordon to inform him the permits for 347/349/411 River Street will not be extended. There is still a month left on his permits for the exterior work to be completed.

Mr. Otto raised concerns regarding the plywood covering the door/window areas and inquired if this permit expires without the work being completed how the plywood situation could be resolved.

The HDC recommended Mr. Szokola contact the city attorney regarding the HDC's ability to enforce completion of the project or if there is a codified ordinance with some ability to move forward with completing the outside and being able to add this cost to the property tax roll.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

MOTION by Commissioner Connor, seconded by Commissioner Albee to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 4:40 pm.

2020 Historic Study Review Committee



Nancy Baker, Recording Secretary