



**Town of Port Deposit
Historic Area Commission
Meeting Minutes
May 18, 2022**

CALL TO ORDER: Vice Chair Ockuly called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

PRESENT: Vice Chair Ockuly, Commissioner Wertsch, Commissioner Brant, and Mayor Kuhs.

ABSENT: Chair Harbold and Commissioner Barchowsky

MEETING MINUTES APPROVAL:

Minutes from the April 20, 2022 Meeting were presented. Commissioner Wertsch suggested an amendment to the minutes for the use of the term “low-e glass” instead of “wavy/frosted glass”.

Motion was made by Vice Commissioner Brant to approve the minutes with the amendment suggested by Commissioner Wertsch. Seconded by Commissioner Wertsch. All in favor. Motion carried unanimously

NEW BUSINESS:

File 11-2022 – 43 S. Main Street – Application for the installation of new siding, soffit, and fascia using fiber cement siding of the same color.

Applicant William Riddle, Jr. discussed the application to replace the exterior wood siding to fiber cement hardie plank siding for maintenance purposes and to maintain the historic integrity of the building. The soffit and trim will be based of the contractor’s recommendations, that stays consistent with the siding product and system.

Commissioner Wertsch commented that she does not like the idea of removing all of the wood siding and replacing it with the proposed material even though she acknowledges the poor condition of the siding and trim.

Applicant Mrs. Riddle discussed the major expenses to replace the rotten wood and repaint it every few years. She stressed that they are trying to improve the look of the town by upgrading the building which is not historically significant when they could just let the building fall down instead. She wishes to improve the look of the town and states that paying outrageous prices just to keep the wood siding and maintain the building would be ridiculous.

Commissioner Wertsch stated that by the pictures provided, the wood under the porch looks stable and asked Mr. and Mrs. Riddle if they would consider leaving that wood. Mr. Riddle explained that it is aluminum, not wood, and that someone previously installed which is why it looks stable. Mr. Riddle stated that he understands the importance of keeping things historic and the guidelines in place but also voiced the need for leniency and understanding that residents want to improve the look of the town.

Motion was made by Commissioner Brant to approve the application for 43 S. Main Street as submitted for hardie plank, siding, and trim. Seconded by Commissioner Wertsch. All in favor. Motion carried unanimously.

ELECTION – CHAIR & VICE CHAIR: Motion was made by Commissioner Brant to nominate Melissa Harbold as Chair and Ryan Ockuly as Vice Chair. Seconded by Commissioner Wertsch. All in favor. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion was made by Commissioner Wertsch to adjourn the meeting at 8:02 pm. Seconded by Commissioner Brant. All in favor. Motion carried.

The meeting was recorded and audio is available upon request.

Approved:

Ryan Ockuly, Vice Chair