

CITY OF LACONIA HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION
6:30 PM City Hall - Armand A. Bolduc City Council Chamber
Accepted Sept 28, 2021

7/27/2021 - Minutes

1. Call to order

Chair Tara Shore called the meeting to order 6:33 PM

2. Roll call

Members present: Laurel Briere, Hillary Martin, Karl Reitz, Charlie St. Clair, Tara Shore

Absent: Sonya Misiaszek, Mark Haynes

3. Recording secretary

Kalena Graham

4. Staff in attendance

Planning Director Dean Trefethen

5. Acceptance of Minutes from previous meeting

5.I. Acceptance of minutes from June 29

Motion to accept the minutes from June 29 made by H. Martin, C. St. Clair seconded. All voted in favor.

6. Public comment

7. Applications & Public Hearings: *The purpose of this agenda section is for the Commission to have a presentation from the applicant and open a Public Hearing for the public to provide input. The Board may also deliberate the application, decide and conduct a final vote at this time.

8. New business

8.I. Update on status of subcommittee

T. Shore has spoken with the Mayor and he agrees that there should be one. It would consist of two Council members, two Commission members and two public members, preferably in the downtown area. As of a few weeks ago it was on the docket but unsure of where it is now. Planning Director D. Trefethen will find out the status. From what is known a subcommittee should be formed by fall. There may need to be numerous meetings.

Chair T. Shore emailed B. Henderson but hasn't heard anything back yet.

C. St. Clair, K. Reitz and L. Briere are interested in being on the subcommittee.

C. St. Clair brought up the development in Lakeport and is worried that the same thing could happen in the downtown area. His concern is to not lose the buildings.

It is important to make sure the public knows the goals of the Commission and also what's not in the purview, so there is no confusion.

H. Martin wonders about other towns/cities historic districts look like. Chair T. Shore stated that the original proposed ordinance was very tight and was asked to be less and now they want it tighter. L. Briere said that different districts have different needs.

Chair T. Shore brought up May William's report and that is how the district expansion boundaries were formed. Planning Director D. Trefethen gave an example of how non-significant buildings still take into consideration of the surrounding area as a total. After much discussion on the ordinance and revision, Planning Director D. Trefethen suggests seeing how the subcommittee meetings go to see where every one is.

Chair T. Shore is speaking at the Rotary on August 5. She noted that education is vital. The first step is the wording of the ordinance and provisions, then look at specifics.

After discussion Chair T. Shore will get a hold of a few downtown business owners to see who will want to sit on the subcommittee and speak for the downtown area. The business owners are what the Council is hearing.

As a property owner in the downtown area, C. St. Clair feels the expanded district will enhance the area. Planning Director D. Trefethen noted there will always be a building that has significance that could be in question of coming down.

Chair T. Shore will send an email to the members regarding the subcommittee, then she will reach out to downtown businesses. She asked if anyone would be interested in going with her to walk around downtown and speak with the businesses. K. Reitz and H. Martin offered.

9. Old business

9.I. Update from K. Reitz for artists

K. Reitz noted that Jim Pelcher is the artist willing to do whatever the Commission needs. He will be invited to the August 31 meeting. H. Martin asked if he could do a map of the existing Overlay District with icon on each of the buildings to show what exists.

9.II. Work on the welcome postcard

Thoughts went around about the postcards and a decision on if they will work or not will need to be reached. The flyer idea was also discussed on what could go on that.

10. Other business

Chair T. Shore brought up the exterior painting of the Gardens Theater building and that it looks great.

Planning Director D. Trefethen will reach out to the owners of the Busiel House regarding the railings and that they need to talk to the Commission.

11. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 7:54 PM

Respectfully,

K. Graham

