

MINUTES
OF
MOUNT VERNON HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION
May 31, 2023

The Historic Preservation Commission met at Mount Vernon City Hall on Wednesday, May 31, 2023 at 7:00 p.m. Commissioners present at City Hall were Suzette Astley, Janet Budack, Wade Squiers, Sherry Brayton, Matt Ruff, and Guy Booth. Duane Eash attended via Zoom. A guest at the meeting was Ed Bjork representing the First Prebysterian Church.

Minutes of the meeting of May 3, 2023 were approved.

A design review request is presented on behalf of the First Presbyterian Church by Ed Bjork. The application for approval is presented to correct damage to the church building caused by the derecho. There have been portions of siding in the gables of the roof that were damaged and need to be replaced. The church proposes to remove and replace all of the shingles in the gables where there is damage. If there has been no damage to some of the gables, there will be no replacement of the shake shingles.

The main discussion regarding the request relates to the type of material and the color of the material. The material that will be used is called a diamond kote finish, a 9” rigid shake straight edge siding. The color that is proposed is a grey color that is finished at the factory. The color is named pelican grey. The shake is a wood composite product. Although the color appears to be slightly darker, it will be a fairly close match and all of the siding within the repaired gable will be the same.

Upon motion by Wade Squiers, seconded by Matt Ruff, a certificate of appropriateness was approved by unanimous vote.

Under new business, Guy and Janet reported briefly on the cemetery project. Guy needs to contact the City Attorney to discuss issues regarding insurance requirements.

Sue is hoping to initiate the window committee to get it organized next month. She hopes to get price guidelines for different types of material used in windows.

Sue shared a request for proposal for work on the design guideline book of the commission. It should be updated, and we have agreed that it should be done professionally. Sue indicates there may be grant money available for the project, and the grant application is due September 1, 2023. It was also suggested that we attempt to have the design guideline book contain some of the original drawings and material from our current design guideline booklet.

The Commission had a long discussion regarding the adoption of materials standards for use in renovation of historic buildings. The Commission will continue to work on this project. It hopes to find a statement that gives notice to persons who have renovation projects within historic districts. This info will give background for the types of material that have been used historically and why certain new materials may not be appropriate to meet the guidelines for changes of the exterior of the buildings. The Commissioners were encouraged to make suggestions to the proposal that is in draft form.

Guy Booth mentioned that the memorial service for Richard Thomas is schedule for Juen 3 at 1:00 p.m. at the Methodist Church.

The next meeting of the Commission is tentatively set for June 14, 2023 if a meeting is necessary at that time.

Respectfully Submitted,

Guy Booth, Secretary