

In The Matter Of:
Historic Preservation Commission
Transcript of Public Hearing

May 17, 2016

ZAHN
COURT REPORTING

208 E. Plume Street, Suite 214
Norfolk, Virginia 23510
tel: 757 627 6554 *fax:* 757 625 7077
email: info@zahncourtreporting.com

Original File 051716jt Historic Preservation Commission.TXT

Min-U-Script®

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION
TRANSCRIPT OF PUBLIC HEARING
TUESDAY, MAY 17, 2016, 6:43 P.M.
CONFERENCE ROOM
SIXTH FLOOR, CITY HALL

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

Theodore Rodes, Vice-Chairman
Lynn Briley
Timothy Veach
John Lifsey

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT:

Rusty Long, Chairman

CITY STAFF PRESENT:

Jocelyn Adumuah, Planning Manager

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

I N D E X

ITEM	PAGE
HPC-16-00065 NEW CONSTRUCTION	4
HPC-16-00066 REAR ADDITION.....	4

1 (Meeting called to order at 6:43 p.m.)
 2 MR. RODES: All right. Good evening,
 3 everybody, and welcome to the May 17th Historic
 4 Preservation Commission meeting.
 5 I'll start with the roll call all the way
 6 to the left.
 7 (Roll call)
 8 Has everybody reviewed the minutes from
 9 last month's meeting, and does anybody have a motion to
 10 accept?
 11 MS. BRILEY: I move that we approve the
 12 minutes.
 13 MR. VEACH: I second.
 14 MR. RODES: All right. All those in
 15 favor?
 16 (Vote)
 17 MS. ADUMUAH: You approved both of them?
 18 MR. RODES: We need to approve the
 19 special meeting minutes also?
 20 MS. ADUMUAH: Might as well.
 21 MR. RODES: We also had a special
 22 meeting. Has everybody reviewed these minutes?
 23 MR. VEACH: Yeah. Action packed.
 24 MR. LIFSEY: I make a motion to approve.
 25 MR. VEACH: I second.
 MR. RODES: All in favor?
 (Vote)
 All right. Let's see. All right. So
 the purpose of the Commission is to review exterior
 improvements to homes in the five historic
 neighborhoods of Portsmouth being: Truxtun, Cradock,
 Olde Towne, Park View, and Port Norfolk. We will apply
 the Guidelines provided to us by the City. If you are
 not satisfied with the ruling that we make tonight, you
 can request an appeal by the Appeals Review Committee
 still.
 Correct?
 MS. ADUMUAH: Yes.
 MR. RODES: And if you're not satisfied
 with that, I believe you always have the option to go
 to the City Council to appeal.
 Okay. By consent agenda, if we review
 your package and feel that all of the details that are
 required and are in compliance with the Guidelines are
 there, we can approve it by consent agenda, which
 basically means we will approve it right off.
 Do we have any motions for a consent
 agenda today?

1 HPC-16-00065 - NEW CONSTRUCTION (GARAGE)
MR. LIFSEY: I would like to make a
2 motion that we, by consent agenda, approve HPC-16-00065
at 13 Cushing Street in Cradock, to approve new
3 construction garage as submitted.
MR. VEACH: I second.
4 MR. RODES: All in favor?
(Vote)
5 Okay. The ayes have it. So that
approves 13 Cushing Street. I believe that's you.
6 MR. MILLER: Thank you.
MR. LIFSEY: You're good to go.
7 MR. VEACH: Thanks for supplying all of
the details. You make it easy.
8 MR. RODES: I believe you can coordinate
with Jocelyn, and she'll get you the certificate.
9 MS. ADUMUAH: Yes, tomorrow.
MR. RODES: Thank you very much.
10 HPC-16-00066 - REAR ADDITION
All right. So I believe that leaves only
11 one, is that it?
MR. LIFSEY: Yes.
12 MR. RODES: I believe that leaves one
item, HPC-16-00066, and that's to demolish and provide
13 a one story addition at 108 Riverview Avenue.
If you would like to come up, state your
14 name, where you live, and tell us a little bit about
your project.
15 MR. PEARCE: Okay. My name is Bob
Pearce. I'm the contractor. I don't live in
16 Portsmouth.
The house belongs to John Pearce. He has
17 on the rear of the structure three separate additions
that were built at some period of time, one of which is
18 like a shed, like a storage shed. It doesn't even have
a floor in it, the one on the side. And so the roof
19 has been leaking. It's a low slope, very low slope
roof. The roof has been leaking. There are problems
20 with the structure on the inside. It's settled. It's
kind of dilapidated and really hasn't served any useful
21 purpose the whole time he owned the home.
So originally the plan was to build a
22 mother-in-law suite on the back of the house for his
mother who was living in the upstairs of the house, but
23 she passed away last year. So he's put that project on
hold for a while to deal with her, and now he's decided
24 that he wants to go ahead with this, and try to make it
a useful space in the back. We haven't finalized the
25 interior floor plan. He plans on having a kitchen, a

1 bedroom, and a bathroom in there. We put all of this
2 together to show you what we expect it to look like on
the outside.

MR. RODES: Right.

3 MR. PEARCE: Because that's what you deal
4 with. I still haven't generated a framing plan and
stuff like that, but we wanted to wait until we get you
guys' opinion on the concept.

5 MR. RODES: Okay.

6 MR. VEACH: I reviewed it. Everything
looks good. I like how you're matching the pitch of
7 the roof to the original structure. I think that's
good. What kind of siding were you going to use on the
back?

8 MR. PEARCE: We're going to salvage as
9 much as we can of the original Cypress siding, and
we're going to add to that, and use it on the rest.
It's all going to be wood like siding.

10 MR. VEACH: Great. That's great. That's
11 nice.

MR. LIFSEY: And windows and doors?

12 MR. PEARCE: The windows are going to be
two over two, just like all over the rest of the house,
13 all wooden windows. He's already replaced a couple of
them. He has got a source, and I don't have the
14 information. They're wooden windows, two over two like
the rest.

15 And the rest of the trim on the house,
the front of the house is kind of fancied up a little
bit, but the trim on all of the back of it is just
16 corner boards and, you know, it's pretty generic, and
we plan to continue that theme all the way back.

17 MR. VEACH: Is this going to require a
slab to be poured for this addition or?

18 MR. PEARCE: We're going to pour a
footing and build the additional piers, like the rest
19 of the house.

20 MR. VEACH: Great. That's all I've got,
Mr. Rodes.

MR. RODES: Any other questions?

21 MR. LIFSEY: No. The other thing is
Zoning would have to approve it; that's not us. I
22 mean, we just approve the designs. I'm good.

23 MR. PEARCE: We'll get that all together
and tackle them next.

24 MR. RODES: Motion?

MS. ADUMUAH: I have a question real
25 quick.

MR. RODES: Sure.

1 MS. ADUMUAH: The house needs work, the
2 existing structure. I was taking pictures, and the
3 porch and the columns, there is a lot going on. Does
4 he have sort of a plan or timetable as to when he's
5 going to do the front of the house.

6 MR. PEARCE: I have not discussed that
7 with him at all. It's an ongoing project with him ever
8 since he bought the house. I am not sure what his
9 plans are for the rest of the front of the house. He
10 really only contacted me to get this addition going for
11 him.

12 MS. ADUMUAH: It's a good job, but when I
13 took pictures, I was thinking, wow, the front needs a
14 little work, too.

15 MR. VEACH: Maybe you can hit him up
16 while you're there. Hey, they gave us approval, but
17 they made mention of the front.

18 MR. PEARCE: He's had a handyman working
19 on some stuff, and this guy was anxious to start
20 tearing down the addition in the back. But he wasn't
21 really happy with the quality of the guy's work, and I
22 don't think he's going to have him continue. He's had
23 the guy doing some work on the inside, and I think some
24 of the front porch and stuff. I don't think he's going
25 to have that guy continue. John is pretty busy. He
works six or seven days a week, which is why he has got
me down here to deal with you guys. He's planning on
doing a lot of this work himself, but I'm going to have
the permits and all that in place for him.

MS. ADUMUAH: I'm just curious.

MR. PEARCE: I don't know what his plans
are for other exterior work on the house.

MS. ADUMUAH: Thank you.

MR. PEARCE: I will mention to him that
you had concerns.

MR. RODES: Ready for a motion?

MR. LIFSEY: All right. I would like to
make a motion on HPC-16-00066 at 108 Riverview Avenue,
that the application be approved as submitted.

MR. VEACH: Second.

MR. RODES: All in favor?

(Vote)

MR. PEARCE: Thank you.

MR. RODES: Unanimous.

MR. PEARCE: Thank you-all so much.

MR. VEACH: Thanks for coming in. We
appreciate it.

MR. LIFSEY: Thanks for fixing up a house
in Park View.

1 MR. PEARCE: I like it.
2 MR. LIFSEY: We really appreciate it.
3 MR. VEACH: Hope you folks have a nice
4 night.
5 MS. ADUMUAH: Did you guys drive by and
6 look at the house?
7 MR. RODES: Yes.
8 MR. VEACH: Yes. I was just over there
9 the other day.
10 MS. ADUMUAH: It's a cute house, just
11 needs a lot of work.
12 MR. RODES: I thought maybe the back was
13 in danger or something, and they needed to get rid of
14 that first.
15 MS. ADUMUAH: You got to do the front
16 first, though.
17 MR. RODES: All right. Did everybody
18 review the applications approved? Do you have any
19 comments?
20 MR. LIFSEY: No.
21 MS. BRILEY: No.
22 MR. RODES: Okay. So for old business,
23 last month we had -- was it last month? The last few
24 weeks have flown by for me. We had the neighborhood
25 meeting concerning the slate roofs in Park View and
Port Norfolk, the guideline discussion with the two
communities.
I think we were all there except for you,
Lynn.
MS. BRILEY: Yeah, I wasn't.
MR. RODES: That's okay.
MS. BRILEY: I have an 84-year old aunt
right now.
MR. RODES: But you read the minutes,
right?
MS. BRILEY: Yes.
MR. RODES: I think the majority were in
favor of a change in the Guidelines to allow the use of
premium grade architectural shingles in replacement of
slate.
MR. VEACH: I strongly support that --
MR. RODES: So I guess --
MR. VEACH: -- for those two
neighborhoods, Park View and Port Norfolk.
MR. RODES: -- there was a small vocal
minority that were not in favor of any kind of historic
preservation at all.
So based off of that, I think in the new
business we'll be discussing the steps to actually

1 amend those, right?

2 MS. ADUMUAH: Yes. We need to make a
3 motion that we change the Guidelines to allow premium
4 grade asphalt shingles in Port Norfolk and Park View.

5 MR. RODES: All right.

6 MR. VEACH: I make a motion to allow
7 premium grade architectural shingles in Port Norfolk
8 and Park View.

9 MS. ADUMUAH: So do I hear a second?

10 MS. BRILEY: I second.

11 MS. ADUMUAH: Okay. So then I have to
12 write a report and everything, and it has to go through
13 the process of City Council and all of that. So we
14 start the ball rolling now by making that motion. So
15 you're saying this is where you want it to go.

16 MR. RODES: So this is a recommendation.
17 This is an allowance for them to use this material, but
18 we can still make the recommendation that they stick
19 with the slate or synthetic slate, right?

20 MR. VEACH: In kind.

21 MR. RODES: This is just an allowance, I
22 guess is what am I trying to say. I guess we can still
23 make the recommendation, a strong recommendation that
24 they use a synthetic material if they're concerned with
25 cost, but we still -- this will give us the allowance
to approve it.

MS. ADUMUAH: The way you explain it to
staff and city is that you don't feel that the
Guidelines allow you to approve asphalt shingles.

MR. RODES: Right.

MS. ADUMUAH: And so that's what I've
been hearing.

MR. RODES: Right.

MS. ADUMUAH: That's why we had the
neighborhood meeting and all of that. And what we
heard was they want premium grade asphalt shingles.

MR. RODES: Right.

MS. BRILEY: As an alternative.

MR. RODES: Right. Right. As an option,
that's what I mean.

MS. ADUMUAH: So you were asking the
Council to allow you to amend the Guidelines to allow
that as an option.

MR. RODES: We're asking.

MS. ADUMUAH: It doesn't clearly say it.
It's implied, but it doesn't clearly say it.

MR. RODES: Right. Okay. Any other
questions?

MR. LIFSEY: Not about that.

1 I do have a question about this that
2 you --

3 MS. ADUMUAH: This draft? Okay.
4 MR. LIFSEY: Has that gone to anybody?
5 MS. ADUMUAH: No.
6 MR. LIFSEY: Or will it go to anybody?
7 MS. ADUMUAH: It depends.
8 MR. LIFSEY: On?
9 MS. ADUMUAH: If you hate it, just say I
10 hate it.

11 MR. LIFSEY: I like it.
12 MS. ADUMUAH: Say I don't like it or, you
13 know, take this out. The Code says that we're supposed
14 to do a report every year for the City Council, and
15 normally I do do an annual report, and so I did it in
16 this format, and I have to let you look at it and see
17 if you agree or disagree. If you feel this wasn't the
18 highlights, if you want me to delete something, add
19 something, then now is the opportunity. That's why
20 I've got draft on it twice.

21 MR. VEACH: Boom. Boom.
22 MR. RODES: You say that.
23 MS. ADUMUAH: It was in your package. I
24 put draft on it. So, you know, if you want to change
25 it, you know, just let me know.

MR. VEACH: I like the format. I thumbed
through it. I like it.

MS. BRILEY: I do too. Do you need a
motion to approve this?

MS. ADUMUAH: Yes.

MR. RODES: We need to vote on the last
one, right?

MS. ADUMUAH: I thought you had a second.
MR. RODES: We had a second, but we did
not vote.

MS. ADUMUAH: Okay. I apologize.
All right. You threw us off, John.
MR. LIFSEY: I'm sorry.
MS. ADUMUAH: Thank you, Mr. Vice
Chairman.

MR. RODES: So all in favor? Can you
repeat the motion? Does anybody remember the motion?

MS. BRILEY: Would you like to repeat
your motion?

MR. VEACH: Yes. I motioned that we
allow premium architectural grade shingles in the
historic districts of Park View and Port Norfolk.

MS. ADUMUAH: Subject to the approval of
the Historic Preservation Commission.

1 MR. RODES: We're going to ask
permission, right.

2 MS. ADUMUAH: I want you guys to see it.

3 MR. VEACH: Subject to the approval of
the Historic Preservation Committee.

4 MS. ADUMUAH: Is that good?

5 MS. BRILEY: I second it.

6 MR. RODES: All in favor?
(Vote)
All are in favor.

7 Okay. We just went through, I think --
is that all of the new business then? We just
discussed the draft.

8 MS. ADUMUAH: You need to get back to the
highlights.

9 MR. RODES: So do you need a vote to say
we like it?

10 MS. ADUMUAH: Yeah. You need to tell me
if you want me to change it, add something. Does this
give you a good summary of what you did last year?

11 MR. RODES: I think you did a good job of
explaining that we're still pretty low on people.

12 MS. ADUMUAH: I think it's important to
be honest.

13 MR. RODES: It's very important. If they
see in the front we have ten people, but then --

14 MS. ADUMUAH: We did start out with ten
people.

15 MR. RODES: I would hate for them to
look at the cover page and say we're good.

16 MS. ADUMUAH: Yeah. We started with ten,
and I tried at the end to explain.

17 MR. RODES: I don't trust my boss to read
the second page.

18 MR. LIFSEY: I do have a question. You
state there, the second paragraph under slate roof,
there were six appeals. Two were for fences that were
19 constructed without appropriate approvals, four
requests to remove slate. So you're not counting the
20 fifth one that just happened last month?

21 MR. VEACH: That was this year, right.

22 MS. ADUMUAH: That's 2016.

23 MR. LIFSEY: Okay. This is 2015. I'm
good.

24 MS. ADUMUAH: I was tempted, though. But
I can only speak to what happened in 2015. That's why
I had all ten members, because we started out with ten
25 people. Now I can flip it and somehow change that part
about membership and put it in the front, highlight the

1 new current members or something like that.

2 MR. LIFSEY: I don't know that we need to
name names. Or do we need to just say --

3 MS. ADUMUAH: Well, I wanted to give them
a visual as to this is what we had, because technically
4 the Code says you're supposed to have seven members and
three alternates. You should have ten. And we started
5 out 2015 with our ten, and then as time went on --

6 MR. LIFSEY: I'm just saying do we need
to name names? That is my question. Or do we just
7 want to say that we are -- by Code we should have ten.
We at one time had ten. Now we're down to five, and we
8 need five additional. Do we really want to -- I'm just
wondering if we're going to rub salt in a wound by
naming names.

9 MS. ADUMUAH: Well, normally I put the
names of the people.

10 MR. LIFSEY: Okay.

11 MS. ADUMUAH: But you are the Commission.
If you want me to delete those names --

12 MR. LIFSEY: That's my only question.

13 MR. RODES: Which names are we talking
about?

14 MR. VEACH: On the right-hand side.

15 MS. BRILEY: The names of the members.

16 MR. LIFSEY: Yeah, because --

17 MR. VEACH: If there is people that might
be interested in joining, do we push those people to
18 you?

19 MS. ADUMUAH: It's probably to Deborah
White.

20 MR. VEACH: All right.

21 MS. ADUMUAH: I don't mind you giving
them to me, and I'll give them the application and
22 everything. Sure, that's no problem. But ultimately
what happens is they submit the application to Deborah
23 White. Deborah White takes it to the City Council.
The City Council meets, and then the City Council
24 appoints. I would love them to death. I welcome
everybody, but it's City Council that makes the
25 decision.

MR. RODES: All right. I think the
online application is still up. I haven't checked in a
long while. You can apply online to Ms. White, right?

MS. ADUMUAH: I think so, yeah.

MR. VEACH: At least I know in my case it
took me over a year once I applied.

MS. ADUMUAH: I don't know what happens.
They meet I think monthly, but I guess there are so

1 many other things, and I think the Chairman of the
2 committee is the Reverend. So they meet and then they
3 decide, and they are aware that we currently have five
4 members. I clearly tried to explain that sometimes the
5 2 - 2 comes up, and it's a tie vote. We could have
6 had, you know, something like that tonight.

7 MS. BRILEY: But when I watch the City
8 Council meetings, he never has a report about the new
9 members of anything.

10 MR. VEACH: Anything, yeah, yeah.

11 MS. ADUMUAH: Sometimes I agree, but
12 sometimes he will read a few names.

13 MS. BRILEY: Oh, okay.

14 MS. ADUMUAH: And say, you know, this
15 board. But lately, I agree, he hasn't been saying too
16 much.

17 MR. RODES: Do we need a motion for this
18 for you?

19 MS. ADUMUAH: Yes, please.

20 MR. RODES: Do we have a motion to a
21 approve the draft?

22 MS. BRILEY: I make a motion that we
23 approve the document 2015 Highlights of the Historic
24 Preservation Commission.

25 MR. VEACH: I second.

MR. RODES: All in favor?

(Vote)

All right. The ayes have it. It passes.
Thank you for your work. It looks great.

MS. ADUMUAH: Thank you.

MR. RODES: Any other business at all?
No?

Motion for adjournment anybody?

MR. LIFSEY: I make a motion that we
adjourn.

MR. VEACH: Second.

MR. RODES: All in favor.

(Vote)

Motion passes. Meeting adjourned.

(Meeting adjourned at 6:59 p.m.)

1 COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA AT LARGE, to-wit:

2

3 I, Jill Hudnall Trail, a Notary Public for the
4 Commonwealth of Virginia at Large, of qualification in
5 the Circuit Court of the City of Norfolk, Virginia, and
6 whose commission expires May 31, 2017, do hereby
7 certify that this proceeding was recorded in Stenotype
8 by me and reduced to computer printout under my
9 direction; and that the foregoing constitutes a true,
10 accurate, and complete transcript of such proceeding.

11 I further certify that I am not related to nor
12 otherwise associated with any counsel or party to this
13 proceeding nor otherwise interested in the event
14 thereof.

15 Given under my hand and notarial seal this 24th day
16 of May, 2016, at Norfolk, Virginia.

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

Jill Hudnall Trail

JILL H. TRAIL
NOTARY PUBLIC
REGISTRATION # 198029
COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA

Jill Hudnall Trail, RPR
Notary Registration No. 198029

ZAHN
COURT REPORTING

www.zahncourtreporting.com