

Town of Westminster Historic Review Board Meeting

Tuesday, October 16, 2018

Present: Peter Terrell, Matt Sargent and Tony Diorio

Others Present: Russell Hodgkins (Town Manager/ Zoning Admin.)

1. **Call to Order:** Peter Terrell (Chair) called the meeting to order at 5:00 PM in the Westminster Town Hall.
2. **Adjustments to Agenda:** None
3. **Acceptance of June 18, 2018 Minutes:** Matt Sargent made a motion to accept the minutes as presented and Tony Diorio seconded. The motion passed.
4. **Communications and Public Comments:** The ZA expressed a conversation he had with Nancy Dalzell about this request of adding lattice to the approved & permitted “Canopy” that Mr. Whitman received. Her concerns mostly stemmed from the fact that her house would not be able to be seen from Route 5 and she had concerns about this living alone.
5. **Unfinished Business (Discussion/Action):** None
6. **New Business (Discussion/ Action):**
 - A. **Jonathan Whitman – Adding Lattice to existing permitted Canopy;**

The Zoning Administrator presented to the Historic Review Board the reason for the meeting. The DRB has requested that they weigh in on the fact that lattice is not historic nor is it in the permitted structure. The DRB will take their recommendation and make a final decision.

Matt Sargent (Matt) started by saying that the Historic District is again being jeopardized with non-historic requests and the Boards are caving in. He went on to say that the Village is losing its integrity every year and will eventually kill the Historic District with these types of requests/applications. Matt expressed his frustration with the lack of teeth from this Board and he hopes the DRB takes their recommendations seriously or he doesn't see a reason to stay on this Board. Peter Terrell (Peter) told Matt & Tony Diorio (Tony) that he feels that this Board does in fact give the community a great service and hopes that as time goes on they will get stronger decisions from this Board as well as the DRB. Tony added that Matt's feelings are warranted and his take on it is that this Board needs to be firmer with their recommendations which will influence the DRB in making stronger decisions. After further discussion, Matt told the Board he would like this request for lattice be postponed for a year (a winter) to see if the blowing snow is truly a problem. He asked if the ZA could monitor the inconvenience that Mr. Whitman experiences and if this is truly a problem he could bring it back to the Boards for re-evaluation.

7. **Other Business:** Matt asked about the Aiken property and how upset he was to see that they did not take the HRB's recommendation and replaced the roof with metal. After a brief discussion, the Board agreed to be stronger on these requests and if they want real results, they will refer to the DRB who have the teeth to deny a request. The ZA brought up the proposal of an Abandoned Unsafe Building Ordinance that has been requested by a couple of taxpayers who live beside structures that are unsafe and unsightly. Further information will follow if the Selectboard wants to pursue.
9. **Date of Next Meeting:** TBD

10. Adjournment: Peter made the motion to recess and Tony seconded the motion at 5:49 p.m. The motion passed.

Clerk Signature

Minutes prepared by Russell Hodgkins (ZA & Town Mgr.) (10/17/18)