

Historic Preservation Review Board – Sept 10, 2008 @ 7:00 PM

The meeting of the Historic Preservation Review Board was called to order by Chair, Mary Jane Anderson, at 7:03 PM at Town Hall.

Chair Anderson called the roll.

Members present: Mary Jane Anderson, Chair; David Waldron, Michael Jean Carpentier, and Matt Shildneck.

Also Present: Sandy Strehlou, HPRB Coordinator, Michael Nash representing Friday Harbor Drug and Developer Lee Anderson.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes for HPRB meeting of August 13, 2008 were approved.

Friday Harbor Drugstore Balcony Railing

Michael Nash addressed the board regarding the balcony on Friday Harbor Drug. The history of the drugstore includes housing the post office and the section in question in this review was once called the Treasure House. The Two pillars came from the old Friday Harbor High School probably in 1960 or 61. The problem is that the railing on the balcony is rotting and is not up to code. The spaces between the posts are too large and the railing is too low.

Both Chair Anderson and David Waldron encouraged Mr. Nash to keep it simple suggesting that the fluted posts being replaced were not common Friday Harbor vernacular and straight posts would be fine. Waldron recommended strengthening the railing by putting a second piece of sturdy material under the rail. Matt Shildneck commented that he liked the fluting on the posts and the board concluded that Mr. Nash could do as he wished replacing the posts. Mr. Nash left at 7:19.

Lee Anderson's 55/65 Nichols Mixed Use Development

Lee Anderson spoke to the board in an initial informal discussion regarding his future plans for his property on Nichol's Street including Roy's/Insurance parcel and the Makinson site currently Bison Gallery. Mr. Anderson predicted that the ferry line will be relocated beside his property in the future and that he may wish to change which side of the property his structures face. How to transform the property into a complex of commercial and residential mix or possibly a hotel was explored. This is a transitional neighborhood and Mr. Anderson may be interested in parking incentives.

HPRB Coordinator, Sandy Strehlou noted the importance of maintaining the character of the streetscape. Chair Anderson recommended Mr. Anderson take his cues from the other side of Nichols Street developed by the Popes including Nichols walk and easy maintenance landscaping. Waldron stressed the importance of scale. He suggested that using architecturally and visually smaller pieces would create a more residential feeling.

Chair Anderson recommended landscaping, using green pockets to break up mass and retain the residential sensibility. One design challenge is the 15 ft cement brick wall behind the existing houses. It was made clear that a flat roof would not meet HP guidelines.

Coordinator Strehlou asked board members to look for examples of development behind existing houses. The board thanked Mr. Anderson for coming in and he left at 8:13.

TFH Landmarks Register

The board discussed creating the specific language to facilitate the process of placing sites on a town Landmark Register. Coordinator Strehlou reminded the board of the need to be both clear and consistent.

It was suggested that #6 of the qualifications be taken out of the list and written into the rewritten introductory paragraph making #6 a mandatory part of qualification. This is not to change the intent but to get rid of vagaries.

#6 Demonstrates the integrity by remaining in its original location and retaining significant original features, materials, workmanship, feeling and association;

Administrative Reviews

Coordinator Strehlou informed the board regarding three administrative reviews: 1) New glazing and seals for the downstairs windows of Town Hall that will not change the looks. 2) Repairing the roof of the Community Theater, it will not show. 3) Re-roofing of the new county administration building.

Staff Report

The Historical Museum is interested in researching the Waterfront for the Friday Harbor centennial. The board will revisit this topic in November but has chosen to work on the Landmark register for the centennial. Bode Cement Building is seen as a possible home for the Island's farmers market. Nancy DeVaux of the Housing Trust expressed a desire to work with the board voluntarily regarding the Home Trust's upcoming development of the Buck property. October is "Savor the San Juans" month and Strehlou will start Saturday 9:00 – 10:30 walking tours again. The Centennial and Waterworks Gallery will sponsor a painting exhibition

“Paint the Town”. Gary Cope and Lynn Danaher have each invited the board to visit their respective properties.

Mary Jane Anderson, Chair

Peggy Sue McRae
8:56 Meeting adjourned