

Anchorage Historic Preservation Commission
Minutes from Regular Meeting
December 15, 2009

Chairman Bill Wetherton called the meeting to order at 6:00 P.M. Commission members in attendance were Dan Fultz, Clyde Ensor, B.J. Elliott, Bill Fowler, Bill Wilkinson, Becky Miller and advisors Peg Revell and Mildred Ewen. Visiting were Kim Akridge-Sims, Michael Cadden and Sheldon Staats.

The Minutes were read, corrected and approved.

New Business:

On behalf of property owner Kevin Gambill of 903 Bellewood Rd., contractor Michael Cadden requested approval for porch modifications. In effort to soften the church-like appearance, the owner plans to lower the porch cap, shrink the staircase using a retaining wall, cap the steps with limestone, add planters, install four porch columns to replace the existing iron and add foundation of stucco to match the existing. This is modification to the original plan. Fultz said that this is a monumental plan, not in keeping with the simple, stick character of the house. The owner will speak with the City engineer about removing a crumbling retaining wall. After much discussion, Fultz moved for approval requiring the reduction of the stairs and the addition of two interior planter beds, but requiring that alternative plans for the area between the stairs and the street be submitted for approval. Wilkinson seconded and all approved.

Cherie and Sheldon Staats of 11501 Valley View Rd. are in violation of the historic ordinance for changing windows without filing an application. The changes were made thirty months ago, but it is questionable that the design would have been approved because vinyl windows are unacceptable. Only wood or wood clad, SDL windows are accepted. Wilkinson said that houses of this time period would have dividers. Neighbors have complained about the style and the dark look of the window panes. City Attorney John McGarvey said that HPC has jurisdiction over any alteration to the exterior that can be viewed by the public. Any changes must preserve the character of the community even if the house itself is not an historic structure. The Guidebook would have informed the property owner that using like materials is required, had an application been made. Neighbors complained that black-looking windows without grills have changed the once charming cottage so drastically that their own property values have fallen. Staats said that the windows have a low-e coating to prevent fading inside the house. The Commission requested that Mr. Staats first contact the manufacturer and ask for help to remedy the lack of divided light and the tinting which have totally changed the character of the house. Although the owner is in clear violation of an ordinance, HPC is looking for a compromise solution that will preserve the integrity of the house. The owner requested submitting a plan next month and members responded that they will be glad to answer questions in the meantime.

Miller suggested that the committee for reviewing changes to the Guidebook set a meeting date separate from the regular meeting. Revell and Wetherton agreed.

Ken Putlak, owner of 12007 Locust Lane Dr., has changed out some of the sashes on the windows of the house he remodeled. Those facing Glenbrook have not been changed. McGarvey said he could prepare a notice of violation of HPC regulations for recordation to Land Records of Jefferson County. He would like for Alice McKinley to prepare it and he will sign.

McGarvey called an executive session for the discussion of pending litigation.

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Mitchell