

MINUTES

**TOWN OF NORMAL HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION
INSPECTIONS CONFERENCE ROOM, CITY HALL
100 EAST PHOENIX AVENUE
NORMAL, ILLINOIS**

REGULAR MEETING

March 8, 2011

12:30 p.m.

Members Physically Present

Anne Matter, Nancy Armstrong, Kristen Allen, Matt Felumlee, and Bruce Warloe

Members Physically Absent

Kathy Burgess and Bob Ward

Others Physically Present

Mercy Davison, Town Planner

Call to Order

Ms. Matter called the meeting to order at 12:30 p.m. and noted a quorum was present.

Minutes:

Ms. Armstrong moved to approve the minutes of the October 12, 2010 meeting. Mr. Felumlee seconded. The motion carried 5-0.

CA-11-02-02: 306 Division Street (Handrail Installation)

Ms. Matter summarized the property owner's need to install a handrail adjacent to the knee walls at the entrance to her house at 306 Division Street. The owner's elderly mother requires a handrail to safely ascend the stairs. Town staff clarified that the owner is proposing only one railing, which is permitted by the building code. The railing will be affixed to the concrete steps.

Ms. Allen moved to approve the request, and Mr. Felumlee seconded. Discussion followed.

Ms. Armstrong stated that she drove around the neighborhood and saw about 4 examples of railings added in situations similar to 306 Division. Three were wrought iron, and one was a simple pipe material like what was proposed by the owner of 306 Division. Ms. Armstrong said the pipe design was the least attractive.

Ms. Matter noted that none of the houses would have historically had a railing; therefore, the analysis for the proposed railing should be what will look the best under the circumstances. Ms. Matter further noted that the owner has indicated a willingness to install whatever type of railing the commissioners prefer.

Mr. Warloe noted that wrought iron panels are available through companies such as McGraw's in Bloomington. Ms. Allen said Kelley Ironworks in Peoria also does business in Normal.

Ms. Allen noted that her house has ornamental wrought iron railings with grape vine decorations, which she does not like. She would prefer that the railing at 306 Division be less ornamental.

Ms. Allen's motion was clarified to approve the request to add a railing to 306 Division conditioned on the railing being made of wrought iron and the final style being approved by Ms. Matter. Mr. Felumlee seconded. The motion carried 5-0.

Other Business:

1. Ms. Davison handed out information pertaining to a May 10, 2011 educational event to be held at the McLean County Museum of History. The event pertains to historic preservation and environmental sustainability.
2. Ms. Davison stated that Terri Ryburn will likely come to the HPC in the coming months to seek historic designation for her property at 305 Pine Street. Ms. Davison understands that Ms. Ryburn is concerned about the two building additions, which she wants the flexibility to demolish. The commissioners agreed that the additions are likely not an issue and that the designation could include the ability to demolish the additions.
3. Ms. Davison mentioned the likelihood that the commission will receive a demolition application for the Masonic Temple in Uptown Normal in the coming weeks.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Mercy Davison
Town Planner