



City of North Tonawanda

Historic Preservation Commission

City Hall
216 Payne Ave.
North Tonawanda, NY 14120

Regular Meeting September 21, 2020

Location changed to Carnegie Art Center grounds due to COVID-19 closure of City Hall

Minutes

Present: Joe Fonzi, April Gampp, Jay Soemann, Kristin Derby, Andrew Kletke
Excused: Linda Hayes, Erin Robinson

Meeting called to order 5:58pm.

New business visited first to accommodate applicants present

New business

184 Sweeney Street – New signage application

An aluminum sign with soft white LED backlighting and “Blush” in script will replace the current Leon Salon signage. This will be attached to the building with 8 screws. Applicant is a salon offering high end hair and make up services.

April asked if only signage is on front. (Yes.)

Motion to approve the new sign and installation at 184 Sweeney Street as presented

1st April Gampp 2nd Andy Kletke

All in favor

 5 Aye 0 Nay

109 Goundry Street – New window replacement

New 3x3 composite windows replacing the original wooden windows on the first floor façade were applied for. Representative described the existing windows as drafty, leaking, failing glaze, and inoperable (safety hazard.).

April stated that she cannot see any way of replacing the windows with the current proposed configuration. Joe stated that the historic fabric cannot be altered. The design presented does not match the current detailing on the windows. Kristin asked what made the applicant decide to go with a new window versus repair. (Applicant could not find a contractor willing to take on

repair.) Joe asked the materials. (Composite, FRP/white outside.) Jay stated that the upper windows were replaced with vinyl. April commented that the second floor change was a replacement in-kind to an extent as there was no detailing and vinyl has been allowed in other areas of the district. Window representative asked if the design was an issue. Kristin commented that yes, it must be a recreation of the existing design so as not to degrade the character. Joe asked if the window features artificial grill (Currently, no.) Andy asked about the safety factor listed. (Windows cannot be opened in the event of a fire.) Joe stated that although cost is not a determining factor based on SHPO and Secretary of the Interior Standards, the HPC needs to be provided with quotes from contractors comparing repair versus replacement. Kristin will provide the applicant with businesses familiar with this work.

Co-chairs advised that this can be expedited through email as the fall/winter season is rapidly approaching.

No vote.

Applicant also asked about painting the front of the building as the existing paint is starting to chip. The entire Commission expressed support and explained that paint over an existing painted surface does not require approval.

Downtown Clocktower

This project is on hold due to costs. No vote.

August minutes

Motion to approve the minutes from the regular August meeting

1st Jay Soemann 2nd Andy Kletke

All in favor

 5 Aye 0 Nay

Old business

Sweeney Estate District

The District is now officially listed. The Niagara Gazette, The Twin Cities Sun, and Spectrum News covered this.

Workshops need to be set up. Due to COVID restrictions and building closures the Commission will work with Preservation Buffalo Niagara in promoting their webinar workshops. There is potential to host an information night at the Carnegie Art Center this upcoming winter if local situations change. Kristin will connect with PBN to find out more information.

Hitching Post

Kristin spoke on the topic at the last Council meeting. The public meeting will be set sometime in October, following that the Council vote.

All agenda items covered – meeting close 7:02pm

Next meeting will be virtual due to weather changes.