

NEXT MEETING: DECEMBER 17, 2020 @ 6:00 P.M. at the Civic Center

**VILLAGE OF RIDGEFIELD PARK
MINUTES OF THE HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION
November 19, 2020**

Chairman Jeff Hoffman called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m., it having been duly noted that this meeting is being held in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act N.J.S.A. 10:4-6 et seq., notice of which was published in The Record and sent to the Star Ledger as well as posted on the Village message board. Roll call was taken. Members present were: Jeff Hoffman, Gerard Garofalow, James Manfredi and Andre Lam. Not present: Matt Bilow, Juan Kuriyama, Donna McEntee, Bob Olson.

The minutes of the October 22, 2020, meeting were approved on a motion made by Andre Lam and seconded by Gerard Garofalow. All were in favor of the motion.

APPROVAL NOTES: ANY APPROVALS REMAIN SUBJECT TO THE APPLICANT SECURING CONSTRUCTION PERMITS FOR ALL WORK REVIEWED BY THIS COMMISSION. ALL APPROVALS FOR SIGNS ARE SUBJECT TO CONFORMANCE WITH ZONING ORDINANCE AND MUST BE APPROVED AS SUCH BY THE ZONING OFFICER.

IF THERE ARE ANY DEVIATIONS TO WHAT IS APPROVED, ANY AND ALL CHANGES MUST BE PRESENTED TO THE HPC PRIOR TO ANY WORK BEING DONE. THIS INCLUDES ANY CHANGES IN PLANS, MATERIAL, COLORS, ETC., WHICH HAVE BEEN GIVEN FINAL APPROVAL BY THE HPC. NOTE: BACKLIT, INTERNALLY LIGHTED, AND NEON SIGNS ARE NOT PERMITTED) LIGHTED/LED SIGNS ARE ONLY PERMITTED IF THEY ARE INSTALLED 2' INSIDE THE WINDOW. NO FLASHING OR SCROLLING LIGHTS/SIGNS PERMITTED.

Public Comments (not pertaining to applications):

. Correspondence received:

- Email dated 11/4/20 from Bob-O's, 252 Main Street, asking for permission to install an additional light over the doorway. Members had no problem with this.
 - Memo dated 11/13/20 from Tara O'Grady asking for 2021 meeting dates, roster and list of reappointments.
 - Memo from 11/18/20 from Zoning Board Case #1561 Re: 291 & 295 Main Street to combine lots and construct a one family residence.
- As this is not in the Historic District, members will have to individually send in their objections to this application.

Jeff Hoffman and Gerard Garofalow met with Mike Landolfi on 11/5/20 to discuss open matters.

Items discussed at monthly meeting with Building Dept.

- **SMC Hair (165 Main Street)** – Letters sent 5/14/18 and 11/1/18 – window has been lettered without permit and has two flashing signs in the window. There has been no response to any letter. They have also spray painted on sidewalk leaving residue on adjacent business owner's sidewalk.
Mike Landolfi (ML) will check on flashing light, sign and sidewalk.
- **Touch Hair Salon (189 Main Street)** – blacktop installed as sidewalk
ML will check on this as they were told not to put pavers as temporary sidewalk.
- **Domino's (172 Main Street)** – windows on Cedar Street side of building are covered in signage, not approved and over limit; there is also a shattered window on the Cedar Street side of the building
- **ML will speak to them about installing three flagpoles with 3' x 5' American flags. They will be given 30 days to complete the work or be issued a summons. As far as the empty store, they cannot get a CO because they have done work without a permit that was not approved.**
- **Estee (182 Main Street)** – has a lighted sign in the window that needs to be removed
ML will check on the lighted sign.
- **(20-07-02) 181 Main Street** – Contractor Stephen Carlucci (SC Contracting LLC, 505 Dewy Avenue, Cliffside Park, NJ 07010 551-302-1176) submitted an application for work previously done without approval. An application was submitted and denied on 7/17/20. The HPC recommended that the work be removed, and a new application submitted, however, nothing has been removed or submitted.
Contractor walked away and did not take any suggestions as to how to fix the problem.

- **Art Mora (173 Main Street)** – installed signage and lighting at new business without submitting an application
HPC contacted Commissioner Olson to ask him to speak with Sunny Shin about submitting an application.
- **Betsy's Bagels (192 Main Street)** – installed signage without submitting an application
ML will speak with them since they are a new business.
- **Antiques (232 Main Street)** – installed signage without submitting an application
ML will speak to the owner (new business) and tell him he has 30 days to submit an application.
- **apothecarie New York (225 Main Street)** – installed signage and painted without submitting an application
ML said they already spoke to the businessowner.
- There was a discussion about sidewalks and businesses will now be told they need to seal the sidewalk when it is installed. The Building Dept. gives all applicants a copy of the sidewalk specifications.
- It was also decided that a new business will be given 30 days to comply with regulations and will also be notified they are in the Historic District and must comply with the ordinance.
- **Properties located at 291 & 295 Main Street** – Building Dept. advised they are becoming a single-family house.

The businessowner of 252 Main Street (Bobby Lee, Bob-O's Cheesesteaks) had contacted Gerard Garofalow about a mural he would like to install on the side of his building instead of the sign that was approved. Gerard Garofalow advised him that he would need to amend his application if he planned to install other than what was already approved. An email was sent to the businessowners with a copy to the Green Team and Building Dept. advising of the same.

The HPC has reached out to nearby towns trying to get some language to use for the approval of murals in the historic district. Since it seems to be the way things are moving, the HPC wants to have the language and process for review of murals ready for future applications. The HPC received an email on 11/5/20 from Danielle DeLaurentis, Associate Director, Northern New Jersey Community Foundation, with some possible sources for language regarding murals. She suggested contacting Commissioner Olson for language that will be included in the Public Art Plan for Ridgefield Park once it is adopted. She also gave some resources from other cities that may be helpful as well:

1. <https://www.boiseartsandhistory.org/media/4400/2-mural-guidelines.pdf>
2. <https://www.cityoffrederickmd.gov/DocumentCenter/View/18232/Public-Art-in-the-Historic-District>
3. <https://www.thempc.org/images/Historic/Add/PublicArt.pdf>
4. <https://www.americansforthearts.org/by-program/reports-and-data/legislation-policy/naappd/redefining-a-southern-citys-heritage-historic-preservation-planning-public-art-and-race-in-richmond>
5. You may wish to contact the Four Corners Public Arts, which supports public arts initiatives in Newark's historic district Four Corners, about their rules and regulations for murals: <https://www.fourcornerspublicarts.org/>.

There was a short discussion on murals. Members are in agreement that a mural cannot act as an additional sign on a business. There needs to be language in place that the mural cannot promote the business.

Gerard Garofalow said the Planning Board is visiting the zoning code and master plan right now. Part of the language was included into the proposal with the art district. The proposed wording for Public Art Placement is:

- As of 1/1/2020, murals within the Historic District, where the bricks have not already been painted, must be removable. They may not be painted on or applied to the building.
- Murals within the Historic District are under the jurisdiction of the Historic Commission.
- Murals or other art paid for by the Village installed on private property, if painted on a wall, ceiling, floor etc. is the property of the building owner. If the art is removable, it belongs to the Village, including art and murals attached to a wall, ceiling, floor or art mounted on a building, or in the ground on posts or other supports.

The HPC will also try to contact some other towns, such as East Orange, that have murals on their buildings to see if they can share any language.

Gerard Garofalow said he also mentioned to the planner that he thinks allowing perpendicular signs needs to be revisited. He feels it is safer for drivers on Main Street to look at perpendicular signs while driving rather than turning their heads to look for an address.

The HPC will check with Mike Landolfi to see if he is available on December 2 or 9 for the monthly meeting on open matters. Jeff Hoffman and Gerard Garofalow are available on those days to speak with the Building Dept. to see what matters were able to be cleared up.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:50 p.m. on a motion by Gerard Garofalow and seconded by Andre Lam. All were in favor of this motion.

The next meeting is scheduled for December 17, 2020.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara DeLuca

cc: Building Dept./Zoning Board/Planning Board