

**Minutes of the
New Bern Historic Preservation Commission
May 21, 2008**

The New Bern Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) held its regular meeting on Wednesday, May 21, 2008, in the City Hall Courtroom, 2nd Floor, 300 Pollock Street.

Members Present: Sarah Afflerbach, Chair
Peter Adolph, Vice-chair
Diane Filipowicz
Jack Morton, Jr.
Jay Heck
Rich Frye
Sadaf Hassan

Members Excused/Absent: NONE

Staff Present: Annette Stone, AICP, City Planner
Leigh Anne Friesen, AICP, Planner

The meeting was opened and roll call was taken. A quorum was reached. As all present were familiar with the Commission's work, Chairwoman Afflerbach dispensed with discussion of the function and qualifications of the Historic Preservation Commission and its members. Witnesses were sworn in. The Commission reviewed the minutes from the April meeting. Commissioner Hassan moved to approve the minutes as presented with a second by Commissioner Morton. The motion passed unanimously.

Witnesses Sworn: Bradley Cummins and Charles Francis.

New Business

- 1. Consider COA for the Bear Plaza, owned by City of New Bern, for addition of public restrooms.**

Staff Comments: Staff Annette Stone told the Commission that the applicant has asked that this application be tabled due to adjacent owners concerns about the project.

Applicant's Comments: NONE

Public Comments: NONE

Discussion by the Commission: NONE

Condition(s): NONE

Motion: Commissioner Adolph moved to table the Certificate of Appropriateness application, with a second by Commissioner Hassan. The motion passed unanimously.

2. Consider COA for 509 Pollock Street, owned by Michael and Marty Gunhus, for addition of a rear portico.

Staff Comments: Staff Leigh Anne Friesen showed a video of the subject property while Staff Annette Stone described the project. The property owner would like additional shelter when arriving at the rear door. This change will also necessitate a modification of the rear stairs. Applicant appeared at the May Design Review. Comments included the desire for more detail on the rear stair drawings. Building does contribute to the District, c. 1882 / 1925.

Applicant's Comments: Architect Charles Francis presented additional drawings. He noted that the rear staircase necessitates a change because as they currently sit, they will encroach on the proposed portico. He described the stair detail, and the issue of the stair not having a bottom rail.

Public Comments: NONE

Discussion by the Commission: Commissioner Filipowicz was recused from the discussion and vote. The other Commissioners discussed issues such as the stair detail, whether or not the stair was historic, building code regarding stairs, the reasoning behind lattice enclosures, the fact the area is very tertiary, the mitigation effect of existing vegetation on the rear stairs, material maintenance, alternatives to not having a bottom rail, the possibility of 4X4" posts past landings with rails run in between to allow a more traditional rail design.

Motion: Commissioner Morton moved to table the COA, seconded by Commissioner Adolph. Motion passed unanimously with no discussion.

Miscellaneous

Staff Annette Stone noted that as this meeting was Chairwoman Afflerbach's last, the Commission needed a new Chair. After some discussion, Commissioner Morton moved, and Commissioner Frye seconded that the new Chair be Commissioner Filipowicz. The motion passed unanimously. Commissioner Adolph will continue in his post as Vice-chair.

There was no further business and the meeting adjourned.

Sarah Afflerbach, Chair

Annette D. Stone, AICP
Commission Administrator