

MINUTES
BELOIT LANDMARKS COMMISSION
Meeting of February 21, 2006

The meeting of the Beloit Landmarks Commission was held on Tuesday, February 21, 2006 in the City Hall Forum.

Present: John Dummer, Kent Maxted, Amy Naish, Dan Shea and Steve Truesdale
Absent: Doug Eddy, Sandra Williams

1. Roll Call
Kent Maxted called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM. Assistant Planner Tim Bragg called the roll.
2. Minutes of the November 15, 2005 Meeting
Minutes of the November 15, 2005 meeting were approved on a motion by Commissioner Dummer, seconded by Commissioner Shea. The motion carried.
3. Scott and Holly Muth - Certificate of Appropriateness
COA-06-01 Review and consideration of a Certificate of Appropriateness to repair the carriage house, install a fence, pave the driveway, construct a rear deck and install a rear patio door, restore the front porch, install a new front storm door and replace several windows on property located at 736 Bluff Street

Assistant Planner Tim Bragg read the staff recommendation.

Holly Muth said the garage (carriage house) was in need of repair, and they were trying to restore it back to a functional structure. Commissioner Truesdale said he was pleased that the Muths were saving the carriage house. The Muths said the proposed deck, patio door and fencing would allow their small child to play in the rear yard. The Commissioners discussed the names of potential contractors to assist the applicants with their project.

The applicants also discussed plans to restore the front porch and showed the Commissioners a vintage photo of the property. Commissioner Dummer suggested the applicants bring the vintage photo of the property and meet with City staff regarding the railing height requirements for the front porch. The Muths distributed a brochure to the Commission to illustrate the proposed full-view replacement storm door.

The Muths also inquired about the process of obtaining a historic plaque for the property, similar to those installed on historic properties within the district. Mr. Bragg said he would send information to the applicants.

Commissioner Shea moved, and Commissioner Dummer seconded, that the Certificate of Appropriateness be approved. The motion carried.

4. Discussion – Satellite Dishes in Historic Districts

Mr. Bragg said staff had received an inquiry regarding whether any regulations governed the recent installation of a satellite dish in the College Park Historic District. Mr. Bragg said the ordinance did not address these devices at this time. He said the FCC prohibited regulating these devices, with the exception of satellite dishes located in historic districts. He said this issue had come up before shortly after he started as staff to the Commission, and discussions with staff to the Rockford (Illinois) Historic Preservation Commission informed him of this language regarding satellite dishes in historic districts. He mentioned that they (City of Rockford) incorporated design guidelines regarding the installation of the devices in historic districts.

Mr. Bragg said the Commission was not expected to make a final decision on the matter this evening, but simply asked they discuss to determine whether the Commission had any interest in regulating the devices.

The Commissioners discussed the issue, and the consensus from the discussion was an interest to consider regulating the devices. The Commissioners discussed contacting several communities to see if they had any standards or regulations, as well as contacting the vendors of the dishes. Mr. Bragg said staff would look into this matter and report back with findings to the Commission.

5. Committee Reports

Program/Publicity Committee: The Commissioners discussed the ongoing issue of finding opportunities to increase the public awareness regarding the Commission. Commissioner Truesdale suggested contacting the Beloit Daily News.

Cemetery Committee: Commissioner Truesdale said the cemetery grounds crew had replaced the discolored plastic panels that protected the chapel windows (Oakwood Cemetery chapel).

6. Landmarks Commissioner Comments

Mr. Bragg said City staff was given a tour by Beloit College of the student housing facilities on Park and Clary Streets. He also mentioned Beloit College is proceeding with the request to vacate sections of street right-of-way to coincide with the plans for the new science building.

7. Adjournment

At 7:50 PM, Commissioner Dummer moved, and Commissioner Naish seconded, that the meeting be adjourned. The motion carried.

Tim Bragg
Assistant Planner