

LANCASTER, NEW YORK
HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION
Minutes of October 8, 2003

Attendance:

James Keysa
Ronald Batt
Jean Brunea
Jan Pecqueur
Joseph Giallanza
William Harnack
Ann Karb

Excused:

Michael Meyer

HEARINGS:

- (A) Joan Eldridge – 23 School Street (formerly Kidder's Bakery) - Windows.
Mrs. Eldridge had petitioned the Board for approval to replace two windows on the south side of her property with casement windows approximately 40" x 48" in size. This was necessitated by rotting of wood from an ongoing carpenter ant problem which was resolved by exterminators. She and her son, Tom Witherspoon, met with the Board and provided pictures of the building showing current windows as well as manufacturer's brochures describing the proposed replacement windows. Mrs. Eldridge was advised that it would be necessary to install muttons on the windows in order to maintain a more traditional appearance and this was agreed to by the property owner. After consideration, the Board approved the petition with condition that muttons be a component of the new windows. James Keysa signed the necessary paperwork at that time to enable Mrs. Eldridge to obtain a permit from the Building Inspector in a timely manner.
Motion to approve: Joseph Giallanza. Second: Jean Brunea.
Approved with condition that windows contain muttons.

- (B) Paul Justinger – Nickel City Insurance – 5532 Broadway - Sign and windows.
A request was made by Mr. Justinger for approval to replace present picture window and casement windows with double-hung UltraMax windows with mutton bars. This was considered by the Board to be a definite improvement over the present windows and they had no objection to the new windows provided the linear bars were included.

With reference to the new sign, the owner was requesting approval to remove the current sign from exterior front wall and install a wooden sign on the lawn with exterior lights. The wording on the sign would read "Nickel City Insurance Agency, Inc., 5532 Broadway."
Mr. Justinger had been expected to attend the hearing and provide details concerning the new sign, but he did not make an appearance and the Board was unable to make a decision concerning this issue and will await further details. Mr. Keysa stated he would like to see some information in color provided by the signmaker before a final decision is reached.
Motion to approve windows only: Jan Pecqueur. Second: Jean Brunea.
James Keysa abstained from voting.
Windows approved with condition of inclusion of muttons .

Minutes of Previous Meeting:

The minutes from September 10, 2003 were distributed and read. Motion to approve by William Harnack; second by Jan Pecqueur. Minutes approved.

OLD BUSINESS:

Broadway Status Report:

The bridge on Broadway was closed because the surface had to be redone due to poor quality concrete. Several more street lights have been installed on Broadway and trees are scheduled to go in by October 31. The Donlon house has been razed and work continues in that area, which was noted to be looking much better already. James Keysa expressed his concern about the fact that original plans for the parking lot behind the Municipal Building provided for islands and trees to be installed where guy wires protrude from the pavement but this was not done. He spoke with Dave Carr concerning this and was informed the islands will not be included. Mr. Keysa feels this presents a significant safety hazard, especially after dark, and the situation should be pursued further through Jeff Stribing who is the liaison on the project. The Board members suggested that it would be beneficial to invite both Jeff Stribing and Jeff Simme to attend the next meeting to discuss pending issues.

Central Avenue Status Report:

It was noted that the bridge over Plumb Bottom Creek is now in the process of being installed.

Notices to Property Owners:

A meeting is scheduled for October 14 at 7:30 p.m. to prepare notices for mailing.

Property Forms:

A meeting was rescheduled for November 5 to finalize the property forms.

Friends of Broadway:

Nothing to report.

Review of Prior Hearings:

James Keysa reported that he notified Jeff Simme about the properties discussed at the last meeting but as of this time has heard nothing further from him. These included Memories Restaurant and the Hill house on Broadway. It was also noted that the Fowler property is in need of some repair on a rear porch section but this had not been reported to Jeff Simme. Bill Harnack also made mention of a property on Church Street which has unfinished siding and should be followed.

Book Project:

Ron Batt stated that he had spoken further with Karl Kipp concerning the 26 pictures which would be needed for the proposed book, nine of which are completed. Mr. Kipp made two proposals for the Board's consideration.

- (1) He offered to sell the pictures to the District Commission at a total cost of \$20,000. The District would then own the rights to the pictures and be able to market them in any manner they desired.
- (2) If the Commission decided only to contract for the right to use the pictures for the book project, the cost would be \$10,000 and Mr. Kipp would retain ownership of the pictures.

Ron told Mr. Kipp he would call him on October 9 with a general idea of our interest. The Board felt that using the pictures on brochures, etc. would be desirable if we could do it in conjunction with other groups such as the Chamber of Commerce, or possibly in conjunction with a tour of homes. Mr. Giallanza questioned whether there is a possibility that Mr. Kipp would come down on his price at all and suggested that Ron mention to Mr. Kipp that one of the Board members had raised this question. Mr. Keysa's feeling was that it first should be determined if the \$10,000 amount is feasible before the \$20,000 proposal be considered at all.

NEW BUSINESS:

(A) Audit – Mr. Keysa provided Commission members with copies of a notification from the New York State Historic Preservation Field Services Bureau concerning an upcoming audit and detailing information which will need to be made available to the audit team. Board members were requested to compile any pertinent information including updated resume's by October 22. Jean Brunea offered to assist with assembling some of the required reports.

(B) It was noted that a dinner and silent auction will be held at Fox Valley County Club on October 24 with proceeds benefiting the Hull House restoration project.

(C) Jean Brunea informed the Board that the annual Christmas party will be held at Hirsch's Restaurant, 8445 Main Street, at 6:30 p.m., December 3, 2003.

CORRESPONDENCE/ARTICLES:

(A) Tour of Homes - Mr. Keysa brought to the Board's attention a flyer describing a recently formed committee headed by Richard and Lucy Wroblewski. Their plan is to set up a tour the weekend of June 26, 2004. This would include homes and/or gardens and would be similar to what was done by the Lancaster Historical Society in the past. They propose calling it "A Stroll Through the Village" and will be conducting another meeting on October 21 regarding this tour.

(B) Jan Pecqueur provided Board members with copies of a newspaper insert entitled "Doors Open Niagara" containing information on a number of historic sites in Ontario and the Western New York area which will be opening their doors to the public free of charge on the weekend of October 18 and 19, 2003. Many significant historic and architecturally significant sites are included.

(C) Mr. Keysa related that he had received a phone call from Patty Ann Guzinski of the Erie County Department of Emergency services inquiring if the old library on Clark Street was on the National Register. He left a message stating that the only sites which had been considered were the ones on Broadway.

Future Meetings:

Wednesday, November 12, 2003
Christmas Party, December 3, 2003
Wednesday, December 10, 2003

Meeting adjourned.