City of North Tonawanda

Historic Preservation Commission

City Hall
216 Payne Ave.
North Tonawanda, NY 14120

Regular Meeting – January 12, 2015, 6:00 PM

Minutes

Present: Jay Soemann, April Gampp, Joe Fonzi, Rae Proefrock, Robert Welch, Art Pappas
Absent: Peter Trinkwalder, Linda Hayes

Meeting Called to Order at: 5:59 PM

Old Business:

Lumber Baron District- no report. April to follow up with Kiersten Minnick or her professor Carrie Traynor before next meeting. UPDATE – Kiersten will present at the February 9th meeting.

NT History Museum, 54 Webster Street – Representatives were present to answer questions regarding proposed signage. Representatives stated that they may want to reuse the existing sign boards. Committee stated that the current signage was not to scale on the building, and suggested that they work with their new sign company (Wilcox) to have them re-design something that may be more appropriate and to scale on the front of the building. Representatives also stated that these signs were temporary (but long term) and made of vinyl, so the committee could not approve this request based on guidelines and recent NYS auditing. Representatives were advised of the next meeting on Feb. 9th, and advised to attend if they had a new design for approval.

New Business:

Acension Church, 168 Robinson St. – Paul Brown was present to discuss new placement of an elevator within the building. Committee stated that he would need to submit a picture of where the new door/ramp was going to be placed, from the outside of the building, and complete a new application that could be quickly reviewed over email.

Paul also stated that he would like to retrieve the original stained glass windows that were on loan to St. Jude's, since they never displayed them or used them in their new building as they said they would. He would like to re-install them. Rae stated that this was approved in 2009 and was going to look for a copy of the letter that the commission originally sent regarding this matter. Paul was going to follow up with St. Jude but may ask for assistance from the committee if needed.

Webster St. Liquor Store (Frank's), 14 Webster St. – possible application coming soon, committee unsure if sale had closed yet.

Northeast Cleaners, 119 Goundry St. – new 1st floor storefront, possible application coming soon.

- April asked about store fronts, if there were any City codes regarding vacant storefronts (garbage, unappealing decorations, etc. in the windows). Art mentioned that he asked code enforcement and they stated there were no guidelines in place. Joe mentioned that it could be incorporated into zoning codes. Art to look into further.

Tully's Building (Skin Art), 44 Webster St. – A sample of proposed materials to cover over the original window structure was given to Jay Soemann to bring to the meeting. The sample was vinyl molded stone, which the committee stated was unacceptable because it doesn't match the building façade. April Gampp to send a letter to the owner advising him of this decision, and suggest he replace with a new window, or create the look of a window with decorative trim/molding.

New committee member – Dennis Pasiak has stepped away from the committee, and Robert Welch has been appointed by the mayor's office to fill in.

SHPO training session – NYS audit suggested training for the committee. Rae to look into planning with other cities like Lockport or Tonawanda.

Addition of buildings to possibly be named with historic designation – Rae updated Art and Bob regarding why we would want to name these properties as historic, as well as the Goundry/Christiana residential district.

Further discussion at next meeting – suggestions included:
Sweeney Cemetery – Yes
Memorial Pool – undetermined – may need too much repair.
City Hall - Yes
Payne School - Yes
Hungarian Church on Oliver
St. Paul
St. Mark
Thompson Church
St. Martin
Active Hose (Oliver and Sommer)
Dom Polski - Yes
Train Building/Museum
Train Building behind Betty's

Motion to adjourn – 7:46 pm
1st by Jay Soemann, 2nd by April Gampp
Ayes__5__, Nayes__0__

Next meeting: February 9th 6:00pm