

OXFORD HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION

MINUTES

MAY 4, 2009

The regular monthly meeting of the Oxford Historic District Commission was called to order by the chairman, George Gaffney, on Monday, May 4, 2009 at 5:00 p.m., in the meeting room of the Oxford Community Services Building.

Other commission members in attendance were Dorothy Fenwick, David Baker, Suzanne Litty, Heinrich Schmitz, and Jennifer Stanley.

The minutes of the meeting of April 6, 2009 were approved and accepted as distributed.

The following building permits were reviewed by the committee:

1. Permit #09-28, Nadine Russell, 205 Tilghman Street, extend fence along west boundary of lot for 80', then additional 20'-25' of Oxford picket fence to property line on Tilghman St.; will match fence on east boundary of lot. Ms. Russell presented her permit to the commission explaining to the commission that the new picket fence will have a total height of 3-3½' and would match the existing fence on the east border of her property. The new fencing would be painted white. A motion was made by Mrs. Fenwick to approve the application as submitted. The motion was seconded by Ms. Litty and unanimously carried without further discussion.
2. Permit #09-29, Patricia Hevey, 103 Benoni Street, replace existing vinyl siding with Dutch lap cedar 5 1/4" stained siding; renovate window trims with Azek; renovate existing front porch with correct detailing; colors to match existing. Tim Kearns, representative for Patricia Hevey, was there to present the application to the commission. Mr. Kearns explained to the commission that the applicant originally wanted to replace the existing vinyl siding with a specialized German siding but because of cost decided to go with the plain Dutch lap cedar siding, similar to that of her neighbor's, to be stained yellow. The owner also requested that the corner board of her house be replaced with new Azek 3" corner board, new Azek window trim (similar to the existing window trim) with extended sills, and new green fiber glass shutters to match the existing shutters currently existing on the house. Mr. Kearns explained that the owner also would like to replace her existing porch floor with a natural finish Ipe material or painted fir, replacing the existing porch ceiling and beaded board, renovating the existing porch railing and steps, along with adding width to the existing beam to align with the existing posts and centering the existing brackets on the width of the posts. A question was raised about the colors to be used. Mr. Kearns noted that all the colors used would match those currently existing on the house. A motion was made by Ms. Litty to accept the application as presented. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Fenwick and unanimously carried without further discussion.

This concluded the review of building permit applications.

A discussion ensued with regards to last month's meeting in which the window replacements which had occurred at the 319 N. Morris Street were discussed. Mrs. Stanley strongly felt that the historic nature of the house at 319 N. Morris Street had been destroyed as a result of the window replacements that had occurred there. She questioned if the historic commission had any guidance from which to refer when dealing with windows as found in historic homes. Mr. Baker referred Mrs. Stanley to the Oxford historic guidelines which state that "existing historic windows should be retained if at all possible." The guidelines go on to say that though historically correct materials are desired "alternative materials to those historically correct may be acceptable." Mrs. Stanley was of the opinion that more thought should be given to windows in historic homes in the future.

A brief discussion also took place with regards to electrical lines within the historic district. Mrs. Fenwick offered to contact Scott Whipple from the MD Historic Trust to see if he could offer any insight into the matter.

It was reported that the property at 101 W. Strand had erected a substantial pergola. Mr. Baker offered to look through the files to see if the commission had previously approved a pergola for this property and if so, what it should have looked like.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Willoughby
Assistant Clerk