

## OXFORD HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION

### MINUTES

**AUGUST 2, 2021**

The regular monthly meeting of the Oxford Historic District Commission was called to order by the Chairman, Thomas Costigan, on Monday, August 2, 2021, at 5:00 p.m., via “Zoom” due to the on-going pandemic of a virus known as Covid-19.

Other members participating in the virtual meeting included James Deerin, Suzanne Litty, Jennifer Stanley, and Julie Wells. Also present was Town Manager Cheryl Lewis and Town Planner, Maria Brophy.

The minutes of July 12, 2021, were approved and accepted as distributed.

The following building permits were reviewed by the commission:

- Permit #21-72, Cynthia Orem, 101 Benoni Street, replace existing dining room window. Mrs. Orem was virtually represented by town resident Ray Stevens. Mr. Stevens explained that the window which Mrs. Orem is looking to replace is on the west side of her home, next to her driveway. He noted that the existing window is an old, rotting crank-out casement window. The replacement window would be a double hung window matching the double hung windows in the front of Mrs. Orem’s house. After a brief discussion, Ms. Litty made a motion to approve the application for Cynthia Orem at 101 Benoni Street, as presented. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Stanley and unanimously carried with all in favor.
- Permit #21-75, Cynthia Orem, 101 Benoni Street, install Mitsubishi multi-zone ductless heat pump; 1 outdoor unit connected to 2 ductless air handlers inside. Mrs. Orem was virtually represented by Albert Urbina, employee with Comfort Air. Mr. Urbina explained that Mrs. Orem was looking to install a split unit compressor on the driveway side of her home which would include two ductless wall handlers located inside the house. The outdoor condenser would be placed under Mrs. Orem’s outside west window, which would also include slim ducts that would enclose the refrigerant line leading to the inside wall handlers. On ground level, along the siding, there would be a duct to the front of the house leading to the top of the house resembling that of a gutter. Along the backside there would be a similar piece that would run along the ground and then up to the second story bedroom, halfway between the new, first floor window and the second-floor window. Mr. Urbina noted that that if someone were to view the ducts from outside, it would appear as if they belonged there and would be painted to match the egg-shell color siding on the house. Mr. Urbina also noted that the property owner was willing to hide the outdoor condenser with plantings. Mr. Deerin made a motion, with respect to the application by Cynthia Orem at 101 Benoni Street, regarding the installation of a compressor and piping to service the new indoor a/c units as described on the application, that the application be approved by the commission. Chairman Costigan suggested that Mr. Deerin should include that the piping is to be painted to match the existing siding which Mr. Deerin agreed to the additional wording. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Stanley and unanimously carried by all in favor.
- Permit #21-77, Gail Steckler, 106 Benoni Street, paint trim, shutters, front door, and front porch floor. Ms. Steckler was virtually present to discuss her application. She explained to the

commission that she was looking to paint all the trim on her house white, her door and shutters blue, and her wooden front porch floor gray. The color of the main house would not change and would continue to have yellow siding. Mr. Deerin asked if the door and shutters would be the same color to which Ms. Steckler replied that they would. It was pointed out that two different blue colors had been provided by the applicant. Ms. Steckler firmly stated that she wanted to use the blue color, 818, referred to as "Watertown" on both the front door and shutters. No comments were offered. Mr. Deerin made a motion to approve the application of Gail Stecker at 106 Benoni Avenue to paint the existing trim white, to paint the shutters and front door "Watertown" blue as shown on the application and to paint the porch floor "Stonington Gray". The motion was seconded by Ms. Litty and unanimously carried with all in favor.

This concluded the review of building permit applications.

Chairman Costigan stated that the next meeting of the HDC would be on the second Monday in September (September 13) as the first Monday was Labor Day and the office would be closed. Manager Lewis spoke stating that the September meeting would also be virtual and possibly the meeting in October as well.

Chairman Costigan reminded the members that at their last meeting there was a discussion regarding The Mews building and a request that had been made to put storm windows over the building's existing windows. He asked if the members had given any more thought to it or looked at the house at 107 Tred Avon Avenue which has storm windows like those that are being looked at by The Mew's future owners. No one had gone to the visit the house at Tred Avon except for Chairman Costigan who reported that in looking at the storm windows, he thought they were a good option as the windows on The Mews take a beating given their location so close to the water. Mrs. Wells asked if they would make a screen to match the storm windows. Manager Lewis responded that she had seen some and that they were not attractive, and that the request being made was to act as a protective measure. Prior to adjourning, the members stated they would take the time to look at the storm windows on the house at 107 Tred Avon Avenue prior to their next meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Willoughby

Assistant Clerk