

Brattleboro Design Review Committee

Friday, November 2, 2018

Minutes

Design Review Committee: Robin Sweetapple, Barbara George, Maya Hasegawa

Staff: Sue Fillion

Public: Nora Dissinger

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 9:05 AM

2. Review and Approve Minutes of October 12, 2018 meeting.

M. Hasegawa moved approved with typographic edits; seconded by R. Sweetapple. Pass 3-0

3. Administrative Matters and New Business

a) Land Use Regulations

The DRC discussed whether they wanted to make recommendations to the Planning Commission for changes to the Historic District Overlay. There was discussion of the need for guidelines. This was acknowledged to be separate and some members felt that a different committee/commission should be responsible for writing them as the charge for the DRC is to review proposed designs and make recommendations.

B. George felt that the first sentence in the purpose statement be removed. She favors decoupling the regulations from the National Register. M. Hasegawa said that the second sentence will need to be edited to read grammatically correct. B. George gave staff examples of language from Middlebury and Montpelier that have no mention of the National Register.

The DRC favored leaving the rest of the regulations the same. They care about a change in material for signs.

S. Fillion advised that she needs to work on how to remove the mention of the National Register as the regulations there are references to contributing and non-contributing structures in the section.

b) Windshield Survey

B. George noted that the National Park Service has guidelines for survey. There are 2 types – reconnaissance and intensive surveys. A windshield survey is essentially a reconnaissance survey. She noted that an important part of surveys is documenting the historic context, the broad pattern of historical development of the community. She said that the cost for a survey will depend on the breadth of it as well as what information is available (photo of every building, date of construction, documented development history). M. Hasegawa responded that some of this information is available on the Assessor's cards. B. George spoke to compiling a developmental history of Brattleboro and neighborhood context. B. George suggested

working with the Historical Society to do this work. She advocated for involving the community while doing this.

Boston Architectural College and UVM were suggested as programs that may have interns that could possibly do some of the research.

The DRC discussed circling some neighborhoods on a map in the coming months.

c) Certified Local Government

B. George advised that the Brattleboro exhibit currently at the State Historical Society will be moved to the River Garden in February. It was discussed that this might be a good time to move forward with public outreach about the CLG program to the public. Ideas included brown bag lunches on CLG and historic preservation, neighborhood history conversations, and an evening presentation. It was noted that Devin Coleman is an expert in vernacular architecture.

4. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 10:30 AM