

Athens City Historic and Architecture Preservation Commission
MINUTES
November 8, 2021 5:30 PM
Athens City Building, 8 East Washington Street

1. Call to Order—Members present include Mary Anne Reeves, Mark Snider, Cyrus Moore, John Valentour, and Richard Vedder. Members Guy Phillips and Pam Callahan reported their absence in advance. Quorum was established. Paul Logue recorded minutes. Guests included Kurt Montle, representative of 74 N. Court Street.

2. Disposition of Minutes—Minutes were tabled until December meeting. Board briefly discussed concerns about member attendance and rules relating to in-person attendance and voting.

3. Next Meeting—Tuesday December 14, 2021 5:30PM

4. New Business

a. 74 N. Court Street—design review—Mr. Montle introduced himself to the commission. He looking for discussion and ideas related to their property at corner of N. Court and Fern Alley. He presented a picture of the building circa 1940s. The first floor retail space is currently vacant with a rental unit on the second floor.

- Montle asked about guard rail ownership on the alley. Interested in installing a poured wall there to help with structural issues. Basement is combo of old brick and poured walls.
- Fern Street elevation is aluminum siding, with wooden shed roof area towards rear alley. They hope to maintain wood siding where the exiting aluminum siding stands and in the front façade. They are also considering a mural.
- Montle discussed windows—currently has vinyl windows, and would like to add windows on the Fern elevation. They discovered evidence that the original construction included windows on the Fern elevation. The board and Montle discussed what kind of window materials is appropriate for historic preservation. Logue suggested that the board get some “official” guidance on this matter as it will come up on every project.
- Court Street elevation—Montle asked for some guidance on possible materials for the Court Street façade. They are hoping that there is wood behind the stone veneer that can be used. He asked if cement boards that have the appearance of wood can be used. Reeves recommended that they take a lot of pictures as they remove materials to document what was there. All had a discussion on accessibility with recessed door to retail space.
- Discussion on balcony—existing railing is cheap aluminum. Logue had a picture of the building from the late 1970s where the balcony railing was a metal piping style. He will forward it to the owners.

- Montle stated that building will need to be tied to 72 N. Court. There is a 6" gap between them and stabilization is needed.

5. Old Business--None

6. Announcements and Updates—Reeves reported that she is working part time with the Ohio Decorative Arts Center in Lancaster.

Paul noted that a grad student is working on a project related to virtual story telling of Athens history. The board was interested in hearing from him at meeting to learn more about the project and see if there is an opportunity to support this endeavor. Paul will see if he can attend the December meeting.

7. Adjournment—with all agenda items satisfied and no additional business, Vedder motioned to adjourn the meeting. Valentour seconded the motion. All members voted in favor of adjournment. The meeting ended at 6:35 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Paul Logue