



City and Borough of Sitka

100 Lincoln Street • Sitka, Alaska 99835

Coast Guard City, USA

SITKA HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

Regular Monthly Meeting

Harrigan Centennial Hall

August 12, 2020 6 p.m.

AGENDA

I. CALL TO ORDER & ROLL CALL

Chair Littlefield called the meeting to order at 6:07 pm.

Present: Roby Littlefield (chair), James Poulson, Ana Dittmar, Scott Saline, Bob Sam (Telephone)

Absent: Chuck Miller, Kevin Mosher (Assembly liaison)

Staff: Amy Ainslie, Ben Mejia

Public: None

II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

M-Poulson/S-Dittmar moved to approve the agenda. Motion passed 5-0 by voice vote.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. July 8, 2020 minutes

M-Poulson/S-Saline moved to approve the July 8, 2020 minutes, as amended. Motion passed 5-0 by voice vote.

Commissioners discussed changes to the July 8, 2020 minutes. Poulson noted that on the section describing the Bicentenary of the Sitka Indian Village under Reports and Correspondence where the minutes read "... the 200th anniversary of the Sitka Indian Village and wall was coming up...", he requested that "and wall" be removed from the minutes.

IV. GUESTS &/OR PERSONS TO BE HEARD

None

V. REPORTS & CORRESPONDENCE

Ainslie introduced the newest member to the Planning Department, Ben Mejia, to the Commission. Mejia summarized his experience in historic preservation and GIS with the National Park Service and his enthusiasm in getting involved in the preservation process. Ainslie reported on the status of the Sitka Tribe of Alaska (STA) cemetery in changing the zoning of their property on Sawmill

Creek Road next to the former Sheldon Jackson Campus from R-2 to Cemetery. Sam expressed his thanks to the City of Sitka and Historic Preservation Commission in their efforts to support the rezoning of the cemetery.

Poulson reported that the Sitka Sound Science Center's Mill Building was mentioned in the National Trust for Historic Preservation's "Preservation Magazine" as a preservation success story. Poulson shared some highlights of the article, including an appreciation for the salvaging of materials and how wood has the capacity to strengthen over time.

Dittmar told the Commission that a new monk has come to town, Father Iosef, who was preceded by Mike Tackaberry.

Saline voiced his concern regarding potential preservation challenges for the Cape Decision Lighthouse.

VI. OLD BUSINESS

B. Historic Preservation Plan

Ainslie reported on the progress of consultation with the STA on the Historic Preservation Plan. Ainslie had been in communication with Tristan Guevin, the Sitka Tribe of Alaska's Cultural Resources, Education and Employment Department Director. Guevin had expressed to Ainslie the STA's interest in increased involvement within the Historic Preservation Commission review process. Ainslie said she asked Guevin for additional language to detail the capacity in which the STA would like to be involved. Littlefield asked whether a timeline was established for STA's review of the plan. Sam identified a lack of clarity in the draft plan on how STA consultation would work. Sam reminded the Commission of the importance of the government-to-government relationship between the STA and the city and said that if a timeline was necessary to support that relationship, the Commission and the STA ought to establish it. Littlefield responded that the desire for a timeline was to continue the momentum needed to finish the Historic Preservation Plan. Poulson noted to Sam that the STA could provide guidance on whether the plan should continue district nomination and referred to Jessica Perkins' work for the Sitka Indian Village Historic District. Sam agreed and included the Cottage community near Sitka National Historical Park for consideration.

C. Commissioner Recruitment

Ainslie told the Commission that Chuck Miller was unable to attend the meeting but would be at their next meeting to fill the Native Community seat. Ainslie also mentioned that they continued to advertise for the vacant seat on the Commission and hoped it would be filled soon.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

D. Demolition of 106 Kelly Street

M-Poulson/S-Saline moved to approve the demolition of 106 Kelly Street and encouraged new construction on the site to be in line with the historic character of the neighborhood. Motion passed 5-0 by voice vote.

Poulson described the state of the building, constructed around 1945 by a miner in a saltbox style,

as demolition by neglect. Sam noted that the home had been derelict for a long time, while he agreed that the building would need to be demolished, he encouraged efforts to retain the historic character of the neighborhood. Sam referenced the renovation work at 101 Metlakatla Street. Sam explained that this was formerly home to Louis Shotridge, and that the new owners had agreed to restore the house to look as it did when it was originally built. The Commissioners agreed that any new construction should conform to the existing historic character of the neighborhood. Ainslie informed the Commission that if new construction were proposed on the site, it would also come before the Commission for review. Poulson responded that including the stipulations at this stage would set a consistent message for the direction of future development at the site. The Commission discussed the life of Shotridge, who collected Alaskan Native art for the University of Pennsylvania and died in Sitka.

VIII. SET NEXT MEETING DATE(S):

(2nd Wednesday of the Month, 6 pm **location TBD**)

Wednesday, September 9, 2020 – Regular Monthly Meeting

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Seeing no objections, Chair Littlefield adjourned the meeting at 6:54 pm.