



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

November 13, 2020 6 p.m.

Final Minutes

I. CALL TO ORDER & ROLL CALL

Chair Littlefield called the meeting to order at 6:02 pm.

Present: Roby Littlefield (chair), James Poulson, Ana Dittmar (Telephone), Scott Saline, Chuck Miller

Absent: Bob Sam, Crystal Duncan (assembly liaison)

Staff: Amy Ainslie, Ben Mejia

Public: Kathleen Dumag, Mandy Summer (Telephone)

II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The Commission agreed to rearrange the agenda so that New Business was considered before Reports and Correspondence, in respect of the attending applicants' time.

M-Poulson/S-Miller moved to approve the agenda, as amended. Motion passed 5-0 by voice vote.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. October 14, 2020 minutes

M-Poulson/S-Miller moved to approve the October 14, 2020 minutes. Motion passed 5-0 by voice vote.

IV. GUESTS &/OR PERSONS TO BE HEARD

V. REPORTS & CORRESPONDENCE

Ainslie informed the Commission that due to the recent rise in Covid-19 cases, the Planning Department decided to implement a teleworking schedule that would help to reduce the number of people at the office. One staff member would be in the office to assist members of the public that would prefer or require in-person communication.

Ainslie told the Commission that the Student Historian internship created for Mount Edgecumbe High School students would not take place due to a lack of qualified applicants. Saline asked if the internship was to research the relationship between rising housing costs and planning policy. Ainslie replied that the internship had been structured such that the student could have chosen their topic, with an ESRI StoryMap as the intended deliverable.

VI. OLD BUSINESS

B. Historic Preservation Plan

Ainslie reported that Sitka Tribe of Alaska (STA) had not yet provided input on the Historic Preservation Plan but expected to do so by the December meeting. Miller explained that the recent increase in Covid-19 cases has caused the STA committee meeting to be postponed but the elders had received the packets.

C. Commissioner Recruitment

Ainslie reported that staff continued to advertise for the vacant at-large seat.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

D. Construction at 704 Sawmill Creek Road

M-Poulson/ S-Miller moved to recommend approval of the project at 704 Sawmill Creek Road for renovation. Motion passed 5-0 by voice vote.

Ainslie informed the Commission that the applicant had expressed a desire to attend the meeting but was unable. Ainslie explained that the proposed project was to rebuild the deck with the goal of renovating the house. Poulson noted that the property was not on the National Register of Historic Places as an individual resource nor was it a contributing resource to a national historic district though the property was situated within local historic district boundaries.

E. Construction at 722 Alice Loop

M-Poulson/ S-Saline moved to recommend approval of the project at 722 Alice Loop to construct a Single-Family home. Motion passed 5-0 by voice vote.

The applicant, Kathleen Dumag, was present. Dumag introduced the project as a single-story home for her and her husband to age into. Saline asked if the site was within a flood zone and if there were any FEMA requirements to mitigate risks. Dumag responded that she had spoken with the Building Department and the site was not within a flood zone.

F. Construction at 307 Baranof Street

M-Poulson/ S-Saline moved to recommend approval of the project at 307 Baranof Street to construct a greenhouse. Motion passed 5-0 by voice vote.

Mandy Summer was present telephonically, and represented the applicant, Pacific High School. Summer introduced the project to construct a large greenhouse to supplement school lunches. Summer explained that fresh produce made up a large portion of the expense to school lunches so the greenhouse would help reduce the cost of providing lunch to students while also supporting the gardening educational program. Littlefield asked about the size and placement of the greenhouse. Summer responded that the greenhouse was 24' x40' and referenced the site map provided in the building permit application to indicate placement of the structure. Summer explained that the placement prioritized light exposure while also allowing for adequate outdoor space for outdoor activities. Littlefield asked if gates were in place for access to the site. Summer confirmed that gates provided access to the site.

Poulson suggested the applicant contact the National Park Service due to the proximity of the site to the Russian Bishop's House, part of Sitka National Historical Park. Summer replied that they had spoken to a contact within the National Park Service about a cultural landscape survey of the area. Dittmar asked if the project required excavation, the depth of any excavation, and explained that she had excavated behind the Russian Bishop's House and found laid cobbles. Summer responded that the project included grading to install French drains and that she did not know the depth but could find out if the Commission requested.

Saline asked if the gardening program was meant to encourage local agricultural entrepreneurship. Summer confirmed and added that program recognized economic and cultural associations and wanted to strengthen those connections for their students. Summer also said that if the greenhouse can meet the needs of the school, the surplus would be made available to students and their family.

Dittmar asked if the project would include raised beds inside the green house. Summer confirmed and explained that they intended to grow cold weather fruit trees inside the greenhouse as well. Summer noted that the height of the growing season is during the summer when students are out of school but the school hoped to take advantage of educational opportunities throughout the year. The Commission expressed their enthusiasm at witnessing the growth of the school gardening program.

VIII. SET NEXT MEETING DATE(S):

(2nd Wednesday of the Month, 6 pm **Harrigan Centennial Hall**)
Wednesday, December 9, 2020 – Regular Monthly Meeting

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Seeing no objections, Chair Littlefield adjourned the meeting at 7:02 pm.