

LOWELL HISTORIC PRESERVATION BOARD MEETING
APRIL 2, 2013
5:30 PM

Chairman Floyd called the meeting to order at 5:30 PM. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Recording Secretary Gena Knapp took roll call. Members answering the roll call were Ken Floyd, Susan Riley, Martha Burger-Farrellbegg, and Clifford Tetrault. Also present were Building Official Tom Trulley, and one citizen. Connie Schrombeck entered the meeting at 5:33 PM.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Ms. Burger-Farrellbegg made a motion to approve the January 22, 2013 regular meeting minutes, seconded by Ms. Riley and carried by voice vote.

NEW BUSINESS

PETITIONER: #2013-004 Sharon Speichert, 422 E. Commercial Ave., Old Town Appraisers, LTD.

REQUEST: Certificate of Appropriateness

PURPOSE: Install a wrought iron arch at the north end of the alley way on the south side of Commercial Avenue, and a plaque naming the walkway "Donna Dunham & Polly Roberts Walkway".

Sharon Speichert, 422 E. Commercial Ave., stated she is interested in installing a wrought iron archway that has a nine-foot span over the alley downtown. She stated she would be receiving permission in writing from both owners of the buildings the arch will be attached to stating she may do so. Ms. Speichert stated she would also be refinishing the two existing benches in the alley and painting them black to match the light posts on the sidewalk, and adding two flowerpots on each side that she will maintain. She stated we will be naming the walkway the Donna Dunham and Polly Roberts Walkway because they were big supporters of the downtown area, and we have lost them both. There will be a plaque with this title engraved on it hanging above one of the benches. Where it hangs will depend on which building has the better brick because some of the brick has been tuck-pointed and is now soft. She stated eventually we would like to re-do the asphalt in the alley as well to brighten it up. We have also looked in to removing the graffiti on the building walls and installing a light post that shines towards the alley. Ms. Speichert stated she would like to have a dedication on Mother's Day weekend for the refinished alleyway.

Ms. Schrombeck asked if this was the alleyway between Downtown Hair Studio and The Lowell Tribune. Ms. Speichert stated that was correct. Ms. Burger-Farrellbegg stated that she thought the plaque was a great idea and asked how high up it would hang. Ms. Speichert stated it will be above your head when you sit on the bench. Ms. Riley asked if

there was an actual Certificate of Appropriateness that was written up. Mr. Trulley stated there was. Ms. Riley asked if an arch was considered a projecting sign according to the guidelines. Mr. Trulley stated it would fall under signage. Ms. Speichert stated the arch would say “parking” in it. Ms. Riley asked how high off the ground the archway would be mounted. Ms. Speichert stated she did not know yet, but if there is a guideline she has to follow, she will. Ms. Schrombeck asked who would be doing the arch. Ms. Speichert stated she has received a few different quotes. Decorative Iron in Hebron quoted \$485 without the wording in the arch, Matt’s Repair quoted \$1100, and Wilson Iron was not interested in the project. She stated Decorative Iron was the only one that she received a solid quote from, and after receiving Matt’s Repair’s quote, she did not think it was that bad. Ms. Speichert stated she currently has \$800 towards the project. Ms. Riley asked if she would be attaching the arch to the brick on the side of the building where Downtown Hair Studio is, or the stone. Ms. Speichert stated she would be attaching it to the brick. Ms. Riley stated the guidelines state it has to go between the first and second story, but should not be higher than the bottom sill of the second story window. Mr. Trulley stated that is when it is going on the front of a building. This will be between the two buildings, at least nine feet high. Ms. Riley asked if the plaque would be the same as the other plaques that Main Street purchased. Ms. Speichert stated she did find those plaques through Home Depot for \$160 a piece and asked if that was where Main Street purchased theirs. Ms. Riley stated those are the same plaques, but we ordered them from the company. She stated she would give Ms. Speichert that company’s information.

Mr. Floyd stated he is assuming that the Town owns the alleyway. Mr. Trulley stated he did not know that for a fact, but could look it up. Mr. Floyd asked when this project is done, does the arch become the property of the Town. Mr. Trulley stated it would be the Town’s. Mr. Floyd stated if this arch were mounted to the walls of the building, would it be private property. Mr. Trulley stated we will have it in writing from both owners of the buildings that at all times, the archway and plaque will be maintained by the Town.

Ms. Riley made a motion to adopt the findings of fact, seconded by Ms. Schrombeck and carried by voice vote. Ms. Riley made a motion to approve the request for the Certificate of Appropriateness since all of the items requested met the design guidelines, as long as the arch is at least nine feet high. Mr. Trulley stated it has to be high enough for a vehicle to pass under it, and nine feet should be fine. The motion was seconded by Ms. Schrombeck and carried by voice vote.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further questions or comments, Ms. Schrombeck made a motion to adjourn at 5:50 PM, seconded by Ms. Riley and carried by voice vote.

Ken Floyd, Chariman

Connie Schrombeck, Secretary