

**Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the City of Rensselaer Planning Commission
First Floor Court Room, Rensselaer Community Center, 62 Washington Street
December 10, 2012**

Members Present:

Charles Moore – Chair, Tom Cardamone, James Ahlemeyer, and George Farrell

Members Absent:

Christine Van Vorst – Vice-Chair, Bob Campano, and Frank Adams

Staff Present:

Daniel Berheide – Assistant Director of Planning, Sarah S. Crowell – Director of Planning, and Jack Spath, Counsel.

Others Present

Lou Lourinia, Dave Gardner, among others.

Call to Order:

Chairman Moore called the meeting of the City of Rensselaer Planning Commission to order at 6:30PM. Roll call was taken and quorum determined.

Adoption of Past Meeting Minutes

The meeting minutes for October and November were reviewed and upon a motion by Mr. Ahlemeyer, seconded by Mr. Farrell, were accepted.

Communications

Sarah Crowell announced that she will be leaving her position as Planning Director for the City of Rensselaer for another position with the NY Department of State.

Old Business:

550 South St. – Sorrento: Request site plan revision approval to include scrap metal storage and other related activities in an I-1 district. The Chair notes that since the last meeting the applicant has failed to submit the requested and necessary additional information. Coupled with the applicant failing to appear at the meeting, the counselor to the Planning Commission recommended denying the application. It is noted the applicant can reapply when they are prepared to address the board. Mr. Farrell motioned to deny the application, seconded by Mr. Ahlemeyer, and passed by all present.

37 Nelson Ave – Filippini: Request a certificate of appropriateness to replace the existing front porch and stairs in the Historic Overlay district. No one was in attendance on behalf of the applicant to present to the

Planning Commission. The Chair suggested the Planning Commission table the application. Mr. Farrell motioned to table the application, seconded by Mr. Ahlemeyer. All members were in favor.

New Business

5 Nelson Ave – Gartner: Request for a certificate of appropriateness to replace siding, shutters and a window in the Historic Overlay district. Mrs. Gartner described their proposal to put on new siding. The Chair noted the Historian submitted a favorable comment on the proposed. Staff recommends approval. Seeing no particular concerns, Mr. Farrell made a motion to approve the certificate of appropriateness, seconded by Mr. Cardamone. Motion carried.

16 Dale St. – White: Requests complete relief from rear set back requirements for an addition to the rear of a residence on a corner lot in an R-2 district. On behalf of the applicant, the builder, Mr. Raczkowski described the how the design came about in order to meet the needs of the applicant but minimize the encroachment into the setbacks. The Planning Director explained the unique nature of the variance request as the proposed addition joins the two existing structures to create a unified building and zero setback. The Chair explained to the applicant that the Planning Commission only makes a recommendation to the Zoning Board of Appeals and they are the final authority in the matter. The applicant noted they have letters from their neighbors in support of their proposal. The Assistant Director of Planning asked the applicant provide a copy of the letters for the record. Mr. Farrell made a motion to make a positive recommendation to the Zoning Board of Appeals to grant relief from rear set back requirements, seconded by Mr. Ahlemeyer, all were in favor.

Adjournment:

A motion was made to adjourn by Charles Moore, seconded by George Farrell, and all agreed. The meeting was adjourned at 6:50 PM.

Next Meeting:

The next regular meeting is scheduled for January 14th at 6:30 PM.

Record of Decisions:

An official record of decisions noting the details of motions and votes from this meeting along with any conditions & stipulations of approval has been filed with the City Clerk and a copy maintained in Planning Department records.

Respectfully Submitted,

Daniel W. Berheide, Secretary