

**Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the City of Rensselaer Planning Commission**  
**First Floor Court Room, Rensselaer Community Center, 62 Washington Street**  
**January 14, 2013**

**Members Present:**

Charles Moore – Chair, Christine Van Vorst – Vice-Chair, Bob Campano, James Ahlemeyer, and George Farrell

**Members Absent:**

Tom Cardamone and Frank Adams

**Staff Present:**

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

**Others Present**

Mark Hennessy, Dave Gardner, and Henry Labarba, 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.

**Communications**

Daniel Berheide, Secretary, reviewed the 2013 meetings schedule. Bob Campano noted an error on the schedule to be amended. The schedule is to be made publicly available posted in City Hall and online.

A discussion around providing a fifteen minute period of time for attendees to speak during the public workshop took place. Attendees should keep their remarks to discussion pertaining to relevant topics on the agenda. A decision was made to incorporate this as a standard item in the agenda.

**Annual Report**

Charles Moore read aloud the 2012 Annual Report to the public. Chris Van Vorst moved to accept and submit the 2012 Annual Report to the Common Council, seconded by George Farrell, and approved by those present.

**Planning Commission Appointments**

Chris Van Vorst, seconded by Bob Campano, moved to reappoint Charles Moore as Chair of the Planning Commission. Motion passed. George Farrell, seconded by Bob Campano, moved to reappoint Chris Van Vorst as Vice Chair of the Planning Commission. Motion passed. Chris Van Vorst, seconded by George Farrell, moved to reappoint Daniel Berheide as Secretary. Motion passed.

**Adoption of Past Meeting Minutes**

Sarah Crowell noted an omission and said she should be added to the list of attending staff. The meeting minutes for December were reviewed and upon a motion by Chris Van Vorst, seconded by Mr. Farrell, were accepted.

**Old Business:**

**37 Nelson Ave – Filippini:** Request a certificate of appropriateness to replace the existing front porch and stairs in the Historic Overlay district. Mr. Filippini and his contractor, Mr. Hennessy, described briefly their proposal to rebuild the existing porch. Some of the questions provided the board by the Building and Zoning Administrator were asked to the applicant. Additionally, Sarah Crowell suggested the historian look at the application. The board discussed tabling the application while the applicant or contractor receives feedback from the city's Historian and agrees to the details of the project with the Building and Zoning Administrator. Sarah Crowell further suggested that if the board agreed, the applicant would not have to attend the next meeting if they received their review from the city historian and reached an agreement with the Building and Zoning Administrator. Chris Van Vorst motioned to table the request to allow the applicant to obtain the recommendations of the Building and Zoning Administrator and the City Historian. The motion was seconded by George Farrell and passed by those present.

**New Business**

**290 Riverside Ave – Gorman Terminals:** Request for site-plan approval to install a new above ground steel tank that will contain a polymer to be added to liquid asphalt. Hank LaBarba described the proposal and the history of the property. He spoke to the safety of the tank and the measures that had been previously taken including the construction of a berm around the site at seventeen feet. Chris Van Vorst discussed the concern about pollutants and pointed to the letter from the Hudson Mohawk Group to the DEC and EPA related to an air emissions study in the City of Rensselaer. The Assistant Director of Planning noted the Building and Zoning Administrator completed section 5, permit determination, of the Flood Hazard Application. The Chair of the Planning Commission recorded into the minutes the proposal was determined to be a type II action according to State Environmental Quality Review. A motion was made by Bob Campano, seconded by George Farrell, to approve the site-plan. Motion passed

**Adjournment:**

A motion was made to adjourn by Charles Moore, seconded by George Farrell, and all agreed. The meeting was adjourned at 7:15 PM.

**Next Meeting:**

The next regular meeting is scheduled for February 11th 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