

The Johnstown Planning Board held a meeting on January 6, 2015 at 4:00p.m., in the Council Chambers, City Hall.

PRESENT:

Peter K. Smith	: Chairman
Michael Gifford	: Board Member
Fredrick Franko	: “ “
George Nicholas	: “ “
Terri Easterly	: “ “
Brett Preston	: City Attorney
Christopher Vose	: City Engineer
Bruce Heberer	: Fire Chief
Cathy A. VanAlstyne	: City Clerk

Chairman Smith called the meeting to order.

Minutes of the September 2, 2014 meeting were approved with a motion from Mr. Franko and seconded by Mrs. Easterly. Mr. Vose abstained. Motion carried.

BLACK TIE PUB N BREW – Bryan Marcucci, owner of the building at 18 W. Main St., showed the floor plan of the proposed establishment that includes a bar, tables and chairs, bathrooms, a storage area, brew area and a kitchen. A handicap ramp will lead to a deck in the back of the building. They have received a Main St. Grant to cover the kitchen, brew area and storage area. There will be some parking available in the back as well as the city lot. The brewing is a contained unit and will omit no odor. Plans have already been submitted and approved by SHIPO. A public hearing will be scheduled for February 4, 2015 at 4pm.

17 W. MAIN ST. EXTERIOR RENOVATION – NYS MAIN STREET GRANT PROGRAM – Helmut Philipp of the Brenner Group, has been renovating the interior of the building. He was awarded a grant for exterior work that includes a rear fire escape and new windows. The fire escape will be made in Johnstown and conform to code giving access to the 2nd and 3rd floors for apartments. The 1st floor will be for retail space. The front façade currently has three doors. The plan is to restore symmetry with two doors and one large window in the center of the building. The window will be approximately 8’X7’ and will be four separate panes. They may put recessed lighting along the front soffit with one over each door and one in the center. The first floor is ADA compliant.

Mr. Franko commented that the window replacement is outstanding and the plans for the fire escape in the rear of the building is a nice match and very cool looking but he has more questions about how they are dealing with the treatment along Main St. The zoning is worded to encourage something more historically based but he is not 100% in agreement with that. It is going to be for retail space and he prefers something more modern. The doors on each side seem jarring compared to the middle window which is modern looking. Mr. Philipp said they are planning to stain the brick in the front so it matches and is uniform. He asked for any suggestions. Mr. Franko approves of the plans except for the look of the front but is not sure how to handle it. Chairman Smith said there was a lot of damage done to the appearance of downtown back in the 50’s and 60’s by well meaning businessmen who thought it was a good thing to cover up the historic look of the buildings. Mr. Gifford told Mr. Philipp he commends him for the work he is doing. We are begging for people to come to this city and particularly investing in downtown. If it is not perfect, so be it, but it’s better than nothing. If we nitpick with people who come here with projects we won’t have projects.

Mr. Philipp said the façade roof, cedar shingles, will be replaced with a metal roof and painted black. He asked about the lighting and if they needed to be on a timer. He was told that the lighting over the doors, according to code, would have to be on at night.

A public hearing will be scheduled for 4pm, February 3, 2015.

A motion to adjourn was made at 4:40p.m., by Mr. Gifford and seconded by Mrs. Easterly. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Cathy A. VanAlstyne
City Clerk