

Village of Springville
Historic Preservation Commission

May 8, 2023 7:00pm

A meeting of the Historic Preservation Commission of the Village of Springville was held at the Municipal Building, 65 Franklin Street, Springville, New York at the above date and time. Present were:

<i>Chairman:</i>	Bill Skura
<i>Vice Chairman:</i>	John Baronich
<i>Members</i>	Helen Brogan Don Orton Eric Tuberdyke – absent

<i>Also present:</i>	Seth Wochensky - SCA Max Collins - SCA Allissa Glasier - SCA Bob Adler Michael Wolniewicz Catherine Wolniewicz Chloe Krouse Dan Bryce Andrea Simmons Jennifer Morris Jonathan Horton Heather Svalina
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<i>Clerk:</i>	Reed Braman
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After the Pledge of Allegiance, Chairman Skura called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

The first Certificate of Appropriateness before the board came from Springville Center of the Arts for a mural at 46 E. Main Steet. The mural depicted an image of Bertrand Chaffee wearing heart shaped sunglasses. The mural material is "wheat paste" and would be applied on the upper level of the building to cover up vandal's graffiti. Chairman Skura asked what the point of the sunglasses was offering the suggestion of "whimsy". SCA Director Wochensky agreed. Vice Chairman Baronich briefed the board on the discussion that was had with the SPAC relaying that some on the SPAC felt it was disrespectful to portray Bertrand Chaffee in a whimsical manner. There was discussion on if any of Bertrand Chaffee's descendants had been contacted. No one knew of any descendants. Vice Chairman Baronich asked if they would accept alterations to the appearance of the mural. SCA Director Wochensky said that they are applying as presented.

Chairman Skura made the motion to approve the Certificate of Appropriateness as presented, Vice Chairman Baronich seconded. Don Orton added the amendment to alter mural by switching out the pink sunglasses with a pink bowtie. All in favor, none opposed.

Upon completion of the vote, SCA Director Wochensky requested the reason for the amendment indicating that it was a de facto denial of the art work as presented. No legal basis was provided for the recommendation

The second Certificate of Appropriateness before the board came from the Springville Center for the Arts for a mural at 57 W Main Street. This mural depicted an array of creatures from Chinese mythology on a blue field. The mural would be installed on both sides of what is currently the Panda House Restaurant. SCA Director Wochensky clarified that both murals would be blue. He further explained that the Art's Center has permission from the owner to provide necessary repointing and minor improvements to provide a satisfactory surface to install the mural. He went on to describe the process of repairing the surface, providing a base coat, painting on the mural and finally installing a top coat that would seal in the mural. This would provide longevity to the mural that would last an estimated 20 years if not longer. The mural could be painted over at any time and Wochensky went on to explain that these murals are put up with an expectation that it will draw attention and bring a desire to improve properties which could include being painted over. The SCA has no contract with owners to require a length of time to display a mural.

The board debated the historic appropriateness of the mural. Don Orton said it wasn't adding to the historic character of the building or surrounding buildings. Vice Chairman Baronich said that it was historically relevant to the ownership and occupancy of the building. Chairman Skura said there were no longer other buildings surrounding it. Don Orton said that this mural is part of the gateway to the downtown Historic District and would be the first thing that people would see. Chairman Skura said that the mural is better than what is already there and that the first thing people see is a dilapidated building. Don Orton said that he doesn't like that it makes such a strong statement. Helen Brogan mentioned that she preferred the representative sample artwork that was in black and white.

Chairman Skura called for a vote to approve the Certificate of Appropriateness as presented. Vice Chairman Baronich seconded. Chairman Skura and Helen Brogan voted "Aye" and Vice Chairman Baronich and Don Orton voted "Nay". With no majority the certificate was denied.

Following the vote, SCA Director Wochensky requested a reason for the denial. Chairman Baronich said he didn't see the historic value. Don Orton explained that it doesn't keep the character of the historic district and that it makes a strong statement of the Village. SCA Wochensky noted for the record that there was no legal basis for denial.

The third Certificate of Appropriateness before the board came from the Springville Center for the Arts for a mural at 26 Franklin Street. This series of murals depicts four nature scenes that cover the four seasons. These murals would be installed on the garage doors of a storage facility owned by the artist (Michael and Catherine Wolniewicz). Catherine presented the four murals and explained the inspiration for the artwork and the ties to the nature of the area. Vice Chairman Baronich said the SPAC thought one of the images showed a likeness to Scoby Dam.

Don Orton brought a motion to approve the Certificate of Appropriateness as presented. Helen Brogan seconded that motion. All in favor, none opposed

The fourth Certificate of Appropriateness before the board came from the Springville Center for the Arts for a mural extension at 59 E Main Street (former Witter Davis building). During a previous conversation it was mentioned that unaltered brick would need to be approved by the board. The Certificate application is requesting a 2 foot extension on the bottom of the mural. In the application was evidence of paint splatter and spills that have affected the appearance of the brick up close.

The board discussed the exterior of the building in general and the desire to see the windows on the third floor reinstated.

Don Orton brought a motion to approve the Certificate of Appropriateness as presented. Helen Brogan seconded that motion. All in favor, none opposed

The fifth Certificate of Appropriateness before the board came from the Springville Center for the Arts for a temporary installation of crocheted hearts hung from trees throughout the Downtown Area. Alisia Glasier, one of the artists in residence with the Springville Center for the Arts, explained that a group of fabric arts artists wanted to participate by crocheting hearts for display. The hearts would be free to take by the Arts Crawl Festival goers. The hearts would be hung by a string that was part of the artwork and there were no separate fasteners required. There would be approximately 400 hearts hung and the remaining hearts would be removed within 1-3 days following the festival

Helen Brogan made a motion to approve the Certificate of Appropriateness as presented. John Baronich seconded that motion. All in favor, none opposed.

The sixth Certificate of Appropriateness before the board came from the Springville Center for the Arts for a temporary installation of microplastic recycling bins throughout the downtown area. These bins would be provided to collect microplastics and draw attention to the issue of small plastic litter. The bins would be stationed and moved from time to time over the summer. The bins would be weighted down with concrete blocks to prevent unwarranted movement or theft.

Helen Brogan made a motion to approve the Certificate of Appropriateness as presented. Don Orton seconded that motion. All in favor, none opposed.

Chairman Skura requested more input from the Village Board on how the Historic Preservation Commission is supposed to address murals and whether they should even come before the board.

Chairman Skura asked for a motion to approve the minutes from January 9th, 2023 meeting.

Don Orton made the motion to approve the minutes, Chairman Skura seconded. Don Orton, Helen Brogan and Chairman Skura voted in favor, Vice Chairman Baronich abstained.

Chairman Skura asked for a motion to approve the minutes from March 13th, 2023 meeting.

Vice Chairman Baronich made the motion to approve the minutes, Chairman Skura seconded. Vice Chairman Baronich, Helen Brogan and Chairman Skura voted in favor, Don Orton abstained.

The minutes for the April 10, 2023 meeting could not be approved due to the lack of quorum with Eric Tuburdyke absent and Vice Chairman Baronich and Helen Brogan required to abstain.

Don Orton made the motion to adjourn at 9:15 p.m., seconded by Vice Chairman Baronich. All in favor, none opposed.

Respectfully submitted,

Reed Braman