

Chairman Robert S. Knox called to order a meeting of the North Scituate District Review Committee (VDRC) on January 19, 2012 at 7:00 p.m. Members present were Sacha Anthony Hummel, Charles R. McCaughey, Norma Knox and Mark Laprade. Michael Charland was absent.

Motion was made by Charles R. McCaughey and seconded by Norma Knox to accept the minutes of December 15, 2011 with correction, unanimously voted to accept.

APPLICATIONS

North Scituate Baptist Church- 619 West Greenville Road -Plat 16 Lot 69-Building dismantled, furnish area with grass. Chairman Knox asked that Dr. Reppa Cottrell come forth to answer questions asked by the committee members. Norma Knox addressed the members of the North Scituate Baptist Church and apologized for not being at the December 15, 2011 meeting due to illness. Norma asked members of the congregation if they had considered other options for the building besides dismantling it or looked into grants to help repair the building. Dr. Reppa Cottrell replied that she doesn't know how many grants were looked into. The church property had needed some repairs and the members had decided that any available funds would be used to fix those problems. Audience members who are church parishioners stated that grants were looked into but none were available due to the separation of church and state. The house was continuing to have major issues and that the tenants had to vacate the property and the church no longer wanted to be landlords. Norma

Knox asked when the decision was made to demolish the house. Dr. Cottrell stated that discussions regarding the property have been on going for the past eleven years. A final decision to demolish the house was made in September 2010. Norma asked why the congregation waited until October 2011 to ask for permission for demolition. Dr. Cottrell stated she didn't know that they had to come before the committee for prior approval. She states that she found out this information when the church was applying for a permit for demolition. Chairman Knox stated that John Gorham had informed the church back in 2004 that approval was needed by the Overlay Committee prior to getting a permit from the town. Dr. Daniel Cottrell stated that in 2004 the congregation was not in agreement to demolish the house, so there was no need to come before the Overlay Committee. Norma Knox questions the permit given to the church in 2008 regarding demolition of a bathroom. She questions was this the start of the demolition process for the house. Audience members who are congregation members clarified this statement saying that the bathroom demo was for a bathroom located in the church not in the house. Norma Knox referenced an article that was in the Providence Journal about a school that is going to be razed due to the fact that the building was not properly maintained. She feels this is in comparison to the church house property. She stated that she does not like to demolish buildings, because when we start that we start losing our villages

Dr. Reppa Cottrell stated that the church purchased the house lot in the 50's so they could have the additional room for a parking lot. If

the church sells the house they would lose the use of the parking area. She reiterates that the church wants to have an openness area to sit. "Why do you want the church to maintain a building that they have no purpose for". Charles R McCaughey stated that he felt a precedent has already been set, referencing demolition of the Bank of America building and the original garage of the Rhode Island State Police. Mr. McCaughey feels as long as the property is left better than it was, that the committee should allow demo to take place.

Dr. Daniel Cottrell stated that the Overlay Committee is only an advisory committee and he feels that any further questions the committee has, have already been asked of the congregation.

Chairman Knox stated that the committee's responsibility is to preserve buildings. He informs Dr. Daniel Cottrell that if the application is not approved, the congregation has the right to appeal the decision to the Zoning Board. Dr. Daniel Cottrell stated that the more time that is spent on discussing this decision, the more money it is costing the church. Dr. Reppa Cottrell stated that further delays are affecting insurance coverage for the property.

Motion was made by Charles R. McCaughey and seconded by Mark Laparade to allow the house to be razed, rubble removed and grass area planted, Sacha Anthony Hummel voted yes, Mark Laprade voted yes Charles R. McCaughey voted yes, Norma Knox voted no and Chairman Robert Knox voted no. The building will be allowed to be razed but a bond is required stating that grass will be planted where the house was and that the side parking lot will be taken out and grass planted.

OLD BUSINESS

Chairman Knox stated that work has begun on the new Dexter Credit Union Building.

Sacha Anthony Hummel asked if any response was given by David Provonsil about the removal of the remote advertising sign for Charming Treasures. The committee has not been notified by David Provonsil as of this date.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion was made by Charles R. McCaughey and seconded by Sacha Anthony Hummel to adjourn at 8: 20 p.m., unanimously voted to accept.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen E. Blaine