

Historic and/or Architectural Advisory Board
City of Cortland
March 12, 2013

A regular meeting of the Historic District Commission was held on March 12, 2013 at 8:00 a.m. in the Mayor's Conference Room at City Hall.

Present: Chair Linda Kline, Commissioners, Pam Abbott, Shawn Smith, Dan Dineen, Leslie Wineburg

Absent: Comm. Mary Ann Kane: still no one to fill vacant seat.

Minutes:

The following corrections were made to the minutes of the February 11, 2013 minutes.

The Commission noted the question mark at the end of the sentence on page 2, should be a period instead of a question mark.

EFIS should be EIFS

Comm. Smith was not present last meeting; Comm. Wineburg made the statement of how the façade would look better.

Motion to approve the February 11, 2013, as amended.

Motion: Comm. Wineburg

Seconded: Comm. Dineen, voted and carried

Motion Approved.

Staff Present: Deputy Chief William Knickerbocker

Item #1 - Tompkins Trust Bank - 36 Main Street - Discussion of facade

Chair Kline asked if anyone was present to speak.

First to speak was Jaroslava Prihodova, who works at Dowd Fine Arts at the College, noted that after doing some research on the HSBC building, she felt strongly opposed to changing the building. The current building, known as a Brutalism style, built in 1969, is an important part of the Historic District and should be treated as an historical monument. She urged the Commission to not make a decision today, and take more time to consider the ramifications.

Next to speak was Janet Steck to voice her objection to changing the façade on the HSBC building as well. She totally agrees with Ms. Prihodova and thinks the Commission should consider the bank as a Historic building and give a lot of thought to the proposal.

Lastly to speak was Lisi Krall, a Professor of Economics at the College. She stated that she agreed that the bank building should be considered as historical and that the architecture significance and the history of the building should be considered before approving this proposal.

Chair Kline explained that the Commission would not be considering any signage today, they are only addressing the façade. The EIFS materials with the selected colors and glass are being presented with change to the ground floor windows: the removal of the grids in the glass. The new rendition showed the new changes to the ground floor windows, The proposed window grids were removed and at the suggestion of the commission just a full panel of window glass was placed. The green panels on the second level appear to have a frame around them but they are actually the same color as the façade wall. The metal window and door framing is new aluminum and will be a deep brown. The entire concrete ground floor level will be stained a yellowish color. The second floor EIFS walls and accent band were painted two different colors. When Tompkins Trust bought the building, in order to have a bank here, historical research was done and according to the New York State Banking Association this is not a historical building. This building is not on the SHIPO (New York State Preservation Office) register. The inside of the bank is very dark and employees need sufficient direct natural light, which is the reason to change the ground floor. The block construction is very difficult to clean, which is why we are proposing the EIFS cover.

The interior construction is contingent on approval of the windows, and the intention is to get in the building ready for business by Memorial Day.

Chair Kline suggested to the Tompkins Trust Company that before any work is done to the building photos should be taken to document the before and after process and be given to the Cortland County Historical Society for future reference.

Chair Kline suggested replacing the yellowish EIFS accent band color midway up the façade with a warm shade of grey and a complementary color to match the EIFS walls. Note: the color information is attached. The Board had several questions and some further discussion ensued.

Motion to move forward with the color changes to the upper façade walls and accent band and accept the proposal in all other regards.

Motion: Comm. Abbott
Seconded: Comm. Wineburg
Ayes - Dineen, Abbott and Wineburg
Nays - Smith

New Business

Old Business

Comm. Wineburg noted the Pita Gourmet had added another sign. Chair Kline stated that they had until April to comply, after which time the Code Office will take charge.

Adjournment

Motion: Comm. Dineen
Seconded: Comm. Abbott

Motion passed.

Linda Kline, Chairperson