

**Town of Virginia City, Montana**  
**Historic Preservation Advisory Committee (HPAC)**  
**Wednesday, February 17<sup>th</sup> 2016**  
**Virginia City town office – 6:00 PM**

**Meeting minutes**

Call to order – 6:04 PM

In attendance were HPAC members Toni James, John Ellingsen, Holly Driskill, and Virginia City HPO Jeff MacDonald.

Members of the public included Janet Allestead, Elijah Allen, Scott Peterson, Jon Scott, Randy and Julie Strobel, and Joseph “Billy” Doyle.

Opening comments - There were no opening comments from HPAC or the public.

New Business –

Montana Heritage Commission –Sign Permit

Discussion was held on the MHC proposal for a new seven feet wide by twelve feet high constructed sign, to be situated across from the Bickford House on the northern side of Hwy 287. Comment was made on the need for a plot plan identifying the location of the sign and set back from the highway, in addition to a hold harmless agreement accompanying the application. John further requested that the proposed jagged board ends of the sign faces be squared ends, and that an apostrophe be added to “Montanas”. A motion was made by John to approve with the noted stipulations and the added need to have the requested information and revisions accompany the application to town council. The motion was seconded by Holly with all in favor.

Further discussion was also held on the display of “Open” flags, with a review by HPAC of a drawing proposal by the MHC for a potential flag design.

The two-sided flag would be available in both horizontal and vertical formats and would display the logo “Legendary Virginia & Nevada City” along with “Open”. All agreed that a sign permit application for the flag proposal and Hold Harmless Agreement was required for further HPAC review, and should include color images of the proposed design for review at a future HPAC meeting.

Weber – Sign permit

A motion was made by Toni to deny the permit application, due to non-compatibility with local codes and guidelines. The motion was seconded by John with all in favor.

Strobel – Development Permit

A motion was made by Holly to approve the relocation of a nearby chicken coop to be situated on the Strobel property on Cover St.

Scott – Site-zoning permit

Discussion was held on the proposal to conduct structural stabilization and site improvements to the historic residence on Cover St. Jeff noted that the permit application should be transferred to a development permit and added that following the removal of current siding any future changes to the exterior should be identified in a separate application. With all in agreement to these stipulations, a motion to approve the application was made by Toni, seconded by John with all in favor.

Meeting Minutes - A review of the January 20<sup>th</sup> HPAC meeting minutes was conducted, with a motion to approve the minutes as submitted made by Toni, seconded by Holly, with all in favor and Jeff abstaining.

HPAC CLG grant application and committee nominees -

A motion was made by John for the Virginia City CLG program to apply for the annual NPS-SHPO grant, seconded by Toni with all in favor.

Appointment recommendations for two new HPAC members were also discussed, with Janet Allestead and Mike Ciani both nominated for council consideration.

Public & Closing comments –

Janet voiced concern over the continued presence of pigeons in and around the awning of the Elks Lodge and need for improvements to the current chicken wire. Jeff recommended in kind replacement to assist in meeting immediate needs, or other upgrades to the site that could be reviewed in a permit application.

A request was made by Mr. Doyle to have a discussion of Virginia City Ordinance No. 480 as an item on the March 2016 agenda.

A motion to adjourn was made by Toni, seconded by Holly with all in favor.

Adjourn – 7:11 PM