MINUTES

BOARD: HISTORIC CONSERVATION COMMISSION, CITY OF BETHLEHEM

MEMBERS PRESENT: SETH CORNISH, CRAIG EVANS, ROGER HUDAK, GARY LADER (VICE

CHAIR), KENNETH LOUSH, PHILIP ROEDER (CHAIR), TONY SILVOY, BETH

STARBUCK

MEMBERS ABSENT: NONE

STAFF PRESENT: JEFFREY LONG

PRESS PRESENT: ED COURRIER (BETHLEHEM PRESS)

VISITORS PRESENT: BRUCE CAMPBELL, JOHN TRAPANI

MEETING DATE: SEPTEMBER 16, 2019

The regular meeting of the Historic Conservation Commission (HCC) was held on September 16, 2019 at the City of Bethlehem Rotunda, Bethlehem City Hall, 10 East Church Street, Bethlehem, PA. HCC Chair Philip Roeder called the meeting to order at approximately 6:00 p.m.

Agenda Item #1 -- note: Mr. Lader confirmed conflict of interest with agenda item; abstained from discussion and resulting resolution

Property Location: 306 South New Street (ZEST Bar & Grille)

Property Owner: Greenway 1, Inc.

Owner's Address:

Applicant: John Trapani

Applicant's Address: 306 South New Street, Suite 601, Bethlehem, PA 18015

Building Description, Period, Style, and Defining Features: This structure is an attached 6story mixed use building located on the corner of South New Street and West Third Street. The building steps back at the corner and there is an angled entrance while the building above cantilevers over the corner. The primary facades on both streets are clad in brick on the 2nd through 4th floors, while the other floor levels and the corner are clad in glass and metal panels. The 6th floor is set back approx. 7 feet on South New Street, approx. 12 feet on West Third Street and both originally had thin projecting roofs. The west façade is clad in dark brown masonry with blind window niches accented by cast masonry headers and sills to break up the otherwise blank façade. Construction of this contemporary mixed-use building was initiated in 2016. Despite HCC unanimous recommendation (with one abstention) for denial on November 19, 2018, the Owner's request to expand the 6th floor outdoor dining area by enclosing a large portion of the recessed roof terrace along West Third Street was ultimately approved by Bethlehem City Council. On April 15, 2019 HCC approved (5:1) the Applicant's subsequent request to shelter the remaining outdoor dining area with a seasonal awning. As a reminder, HCC is mandated with preserving structures dating from the designated era of the Historic Conservation District (ca. 1895 – 1950); thus, this building is not considered a contributing structure to the District.

Proposed Alterations: It is proposed to install signage per elevations and plans.

Guideline Citations:

- Secretary of the Interior's Standards (SIS) 9. -- New additions, exterior alterations, or related new construction will not destroy historic materials, features, and spatial relationships that characterize the property. The new work shall be differentiated from the old and will be compatible with the historic materials, features, size, scale and proportion, and massing to protect the integrity of the property and its environment.

- Bethlehem Ordinance 1714.03 Purposes of Historic Conservation District -- It is the purpose and intent of the City of Bethlehem to promote, protect, enhance and preserve historic resources and traditional community character for the educational, cultural, economic and general welfare of the public through the preservation, protection and regulation of buildings and areas of historic interest or importance within the City.
- Historic Conservation Commission 'Guidelines for Signage' -- Care should be taken in mounting signs to minimize damage to historic materials. This includes reusing hardware or brackets from previous signs. If reusing existing hardware or attachment locations is not an option, select mounting locations that can be easily patched if the sign is removed. This includes locating holes in mortar joints rather than directly into bricks or masonry, which will facilitate repair if the sign is removed or relocated in the future.

Evaluation, Effect on Historic Conservation District, Recommendations: Current Application can be considered continuation of discussion from April 15, 2019 when HCC made no motion to approve various signage proposals. At that time, Applicant agreed to return at later date with details of preferred signage.

Current COA Application indicates intent to install company logo at upper floor level roof terrace handrail along west façade. It should be noted that Application form requires "to-scale drawing, with elevation view" for all signage proposals. Provided materials only include photo of overall west façade along with detail photo of signage already installed to glass surface of handrail assembly; thus, current request is for approval of existing signage. Detail photo confirms overall height and width dimensions of existing handrail (70 inches x 141 inches) as well as height and width of each letter (41 inches x 28.5 inches) but fails to identify material and mounting method for letters, which spell out "ZEST" company logo in very large sans-serif, stenciled, all-capital letters in bright white color. HCC traditionally rejects bright white signage lettering within Historic Conservation District, preferring warm white or ivory as acceptable alternative.

HCC Signage Guidelines identify signs as "words and (graphic) images applied to signboards and awnings as well as individual letters pin-mounted to parapets or building friezes". Current proposal falls outside Guidelines definition of signage; thus, discussion is warranted in order to determine appropriateness of current proposal.

Discussion: John Trapani represented proposal to install signage per elevations and plans. Applicant confirmed signage illustrated in COA Application is already installed; composed of individual vinyl letters in company logo adhered to inside surface of handrail glass panels along west elevation of upper terrace. Mr. Roeder inquired if current signage was same lettering installed in early 2019; Applicant confirmed current signage was installed in early 2019 but was subsequently covered over and now revealed again. Ms. Starbuck inquired about actual color of existing lettering; Applicant confirmed letters are bright white in color but are not reflective and will not be illuminated.

Public Commentary: None

The Commission upon motion by Ms. Starbuck and seconded by Mr. Evans adopted the proposal that City Council issue a Certificate of Appropriateness for the proposed work as presented and described as follows:

- 1. Proposal to install signage per elevations was presented by John Trapani.
- 2. Approved improvements include:
 - existing sign composed of individual letters spelling out "ZEST" company logo in large sans-serif, stenciled, all-capital letters in bright white color as supplemental building signage; color of letters is not reflective and signage will not be illuminated
 - b. lettering installed on inside surfaces of glass panels (part of handrail assembly) along west façade of sixth floor outdoor dining terrace
 - c. each letter measures 41 inches high x 28.5 inches wide and is centered horizontally as well as vertically within respective panel

The motion for the proposed work was approved 7-0-1, with Mr. Lader abstaining.

Agenda Item #2

Property Location: 601 East Fourth Street (The Nest)

Property Owner: 601 East Fourth Street, LLC

Owner's Address:

Applicant: Bruce Campbell

Applicant's Address: 601 East Fourth Street, Bethlehem, PA 18015

Building Description, Period, Style, and Defining Features: The free-standing brick structure is a 4-bay, 2 1/2-story commercial building with a simple gable roof with slate shingles. Aluminum siding was recently removed to reveal the original brick façade painted over to imitate regular brick coursing along with wood trim as well as early window and door placements. The front façade has angled corner entrance and two windows of different sizes at the street level. It has a 2-story cross gable rear addition with one roof dormer along Pierce Street. Constructed ca. 1895, it was later modified to create separate entrances to segregate hotel quests above from a wine and liquor retail business at the entry level. According to Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps, the rear addition received a framed porch around 1940, which was subsequently enclosed to create yet another entrance. The same maps depict a large, detached, single-story, brick masonry garage constructed in the northwest corner of the rear yard about the same time as the back porch. A masonry wall connecting the main house with the detached garage was completed sometime after 1952. The garage with low-slung hip roof, corner entrance and random windows was later converted into an apartment. The original brick masonry façades of the garage and privacy wall were treated with a stucco veneer and given an etched pattern (often referred to as "Brickote") in imitation of stacked stone sometime during the mid-20th century. The original structure was Federal Revival or Queen Anne in style but with the loss of many original defining features it can no longer be categorized as exhibiting a specific architectural style.

Proposed Alterations: It is proposed to replace windows, roofing, demolish rear apartment and build patio with outside bar, replace doors, reconstruct trim and install half-round aluminum gutters.

Guideline Citations:

- Secretary of the Interior's Standards (SIS) 1. -- A property will be used as it was historically or be given a new use that requires minimal change to its distinctive materials, features, spaces, and spatial relationships.
- Secretary of the Interior's Standards (SIS) 2. -- The historic character of a property will be retained and preserved. The removal of distinctive materials or alteration of features, spaces, and spatial relationships that characterize a property will be avoided.
- Secretary of the Interior's Standards (SIS) 4. -- Changes to a property that have acquired historic significance in their own right will be retained and preserved.
- Secretary of the Interior's Standards (SIS) 5. -- Distinctive materials, features, finishes, and construction techniques or examples of craftsmanship that characterize a property will be preserved.
- Secretary of the Interior's Standards (SIS) 9. -- see Agenda Item #1
- Bethlehem Ordinance 1714.03 Purposes of Historic Conservation District -- see Agenda Item #1
- Historic Conservation District 'Design Guidelines' concerning demolition -- HCC will not recommend approval for demolition unless proposed demolition involves a non-significant building, provided that the demolition will not adversely affect those parts of the site or adjacent properties that are significant.

Evaluation, Effect on Historic Conservation District, Recommendations: Current evaluation is considered continuation of HCC discussion on June 17, 2019, which resulted in approval for Applicant to remove aluminum siding, exposing and restoring brick and wood trim in-kind, with cleaning of revealed masonry. Subsequent review on July 15, 2019 resulted in HCC approval of Jeld-Wen replacement windows in 1-over-1 configuration with aluminum exterior cladding in

bronze color; exterior storm windows to include full-screen detail. HCC resolution included approval for Applicant to repair/replace in-kind existing window trim, painted in lighter contrasting color. Based upon verbal approval by HCC to demolish rear apartment structure and masonry privacy wall, Applicant agreed to return to HCC with measured drawings along with specifics concerning dimensions, materials, colors, etc. of new design elements.

Current COA Application notes that several original 2-over-2 window sash were recently found on site so Applicant requests stipulation for 1-over-1 window sash defined within previous COA be amended to allow 2-over-2 lite configurations for replacement windows. According to minutes from July 15th HCC meeting, Historic Officer noted 1-over-1 as well as 2-over-2 window sash are period appropriate so request to amend original COA to reflect current developments is appropriate.

Applicant proposes to remove non-original covered stoop at southwest corner entrance and replace with trim details to match original wood trim found elsewhere along with new standing-seam metal roof. With clarification about color/material selection of metal roof, proposed replacement covered stoop is appropriate. Supplemental drawings indicate existing inappropriate door at corner entrance to be replaced by door with divided lite in upper half with two panels in lower half and 4-lite transom above. Relevant details concerning type of door, hardware, color/finish, transition between door leaf and transom, etc. not provided; thus, clarification is warranted before approval of replacement door at corner entrance can be determined.

Similarly, Applicant proposes to remove non-historic covered stoop and existing concrete steps leading to side entrance along west façade; however, current proposal also includes request to replace associated side door with new window to match windows elsewhere. No floor plan drawings are included with COA Application so justification for removal of side entrance cannot be determined. If approved, detailing of masonry repairs around replacement window should match remaining windows as well. Repairs to west façade resulting from removal of existing steps should match adjacent surfaces and entire façade below water table should be finished with pigmented stucco for uniform appearance. Though not illustrated on provided line drawings, recent removal of aluminum siding revealed various openings subsequently patched using inappropriate methods as well as existing ventilation covers, louvered openings, utility meters and conduits, etc. along west façade so repairs for such items to match original adjacent surfaces are required. Applicant is encouraged to reestablish window at upper level of west façade (beneath roof dormer) as full size 2-over-2 double-hung sash rather than small horizontal window, as currently depicted; if small window is to remain, it should be revised to 2-lite sash.

Applicant also proposes to remove non-original door along front (south) façade near east corner and replace with hood and trim details to match original trim found elsewhere as well as wood corbel brackets on either side of existing transom along with new standing-seam metal roof. With clarification about color/material selection of metal roof, proposed hood with corbel elements is appropriate. Supplemental drawings indicate existing door to be replaced by door with divided lite in upper half with two panels in lower half and 4-lite transom above. Relevant details concerning type of door, hardware, color/finish, transition between door leaf and transom, etc. not provided; thus, clarification is warranted before approval of replacement door can be determined.

Application also indicates intent to remove existing door along rear (north) façade and replace with new door leading out to new rear patio. Supplemental drawings indicate existing door to be replaced by door with divided lite in upper half with two panels in lower half. Relevant details concerning type of door, hardware, color/finish, etc. not provided; thus, clarification is warranted before approval of replacement door can be determined.

Applicant proposes to install half-round aluminum gutters; unfortunately, no mention of size or color of gutters nor depiction of associated gutter hangers and needed downspouts are indicated on provided line drawings so discussion is warranted before appropriateness of proposal for new gutter system can be determined.

Provided line drawings contradict certain elements depicted in supplemental computer-generated views, so clarification about following items is warranted before appropriateness can be determined: double windows or blind window opening along west elevation near corner entrance;

2-over-2 divided window sash or transom window with solid window panel in dormer at west elevation; existing or replacement stair leading from public right of way at southeast corner and up along east facade to second floor level above.

Applicant's previous discussions with HCC indicated intent to salvage existing slate from rear (north) roof to repair front (south) roof landscape, with rear roof to receive replacement slate roofing along with need to replace missing snow guards; unfortunately, provided line drawings do not reference slate roof details so clarification is warranted before appropriateness can be determined.

Based upon prior verbal approval by HCC to potentially demolish rear garage apartment, current COA Application includes various details of replacement patio. Overall dimensions of new rear patio cannot be discerned from supplemental drawings; however, proposed design is defined by series of piers clad in stone veneer with painted wooden handrail and picket assemblies between. Northwest corner at Pierce Street and Evans Street follows existing angled corner of garage apartment and includes large stone veneer wall surface as proposed location for new signage. Stone piers are capped; however, proposed material of cap is not identified. Many stone piers integrate tall metal lampposts for overall illumination. Series of tall 8-inch x 8-inch wooden posts with trim to match existing wooden trim at main structure support flat roof with EPDM rubber roof membrane. Proposed flat roof extends out from rear of main house addition to shelter new outdoor bar while remaining patio is without any cover; no details of outdoor bar are provided. Proposed patio includes 6-inch wide wood decking that terminates into trim board around entire perimeter, with masonry retaining wall below to receive stucco finish. In response to previous HCC inquiry, garbage nook with slatted gate as visual screen is located under eastern end of patio along Evans Street. Exposed façade of main building under covered bar area is sheathed with 6-inch smooth paintable cement board siding. Tall fence along eastern side of new patio is proposed as privacy screen with adjacent property; however, supplemental materials do not offer fence details, so discussion is warranted. Similar to previous commentary about main structure, current line drawings reference half-round gutters but there is no mention of size or color of gutters nor any depictions of hangers and associated downspouts so discussion is warranted before appropriateness can be determined.

In addition to signage at northwest angled corner of new patio at intersection of Pierce Street and Evans Street, supplemental materials also depict new blade sign at southwest corner of main structure at intersection of East Fourth Street and Pierce Street; however, required details (including to-scale drawings of signage, identification of signage materials, colors, lettering, logos, methods of attachment, etc.) are missing from current COA Application. Applicant encouraged to cooperate with qualified sign maker and to reference Guidelines for Signage within Historic Conservation District (available at Bethlehem's Planning and Zoning Department) as part of signage design process. Details of proposed signage should be clarified with Bethlehem's Zoning Officer before returning to HCC for future signage approvals.

COA Application also includes side view detail of new steps and associated handrail envisioned between existing structure and new rear patio leading down to Pierce Street. Simplicity of proposed concrete treads and (assumed) metal handrail assembly is appropriate; however, discussion with Bethlehem Code Officer/Building Inspector should address issue of lowest handrail segment that seems to extend out into public sidewalk.

Discussion: Bruce Campbell represented proposal to replace windows, roofing, demolish rear apartment and build patio with outside bar, replace doors, reconstruct trim and install half-round aluminum gutters. Mr. Roeder summarized list of items for HCC discussion, as identified in COA Application: amend language of original COA Resolution to allow 2-over-2 double-hung replacement windows (original resolution required 1-over-1 windows); permission to demolish rear garage apartment and replace with rear patio and outdoor bar; remove (non-original) covered stoop at southwest corner and replace with covered stoop to match original details; remove (non-original) concrete steps, covered stoop and entrance door along west façade and replace door opening with window to match other replacement windows; remove (non-original) entrance doors at south (front), southwest corner (main) and north (rear) entrances and replace

with appropriate replacement doors, including trim to match original details; install new half-round aluminum gutters, as needed.

Ms. Starbuck requested clarification about lack of corbel brackets on either side of transom at main entrance door at angled southwest stoop to match details of similar south (front) entrance door. Applicant confirmed trim details depicted in provided line drawings are associated with covered stoop that extends out beyond angled corner and do not frame main entrance door and transom; corbel brackets are not needed because shallow stoop condition at south (front) entrance is not repeated at corner location. Applicant also clarified that pent roofs at south (front) entrance and southwest (main) entrance to include copper metal flashing as roof cladding.

Applicant continued that existing side entrance along west façade to be replaced with 2-over-2 double-hung window to match other replacement windows; patching around new window to match adjacent masonry. Applicant noted small window opening at upper level along west façade is associated with public restroom so toilet location might require need to retain small window; requested potential resolution language to allow for two options: replace small window with similar but with 2-lite configuration or replace with full-size 2-over-2 double-hung window to match other replacement windows. Though currently boarded up, Applicant also clarified existing 2-over-2 double-hung window sash at roof dormer will be repaired in-kind.

Mr. Roeder inquired about product information for proposed replacement entrance doors; Applicant noted details for replacement doors are not finalized. Mr. Roeder suggested 'Vintage Doors: Colonial Style' available through A.D. Moyer (Coopersburg, PA) as appropriate replacement for southwest corner (main) entrance door: three-quarter height lite (not divided) with double panels below and upper transom with 4-lite divisions. Remaining entrance doors are similar, but with half-height lite (not divided) and double panels below; door at south (front) entrance also with upper transom with 4-lite divisions. Applicant agreed to submit specifications of proposed door selections for review/approval by Historic Officer and HCC chair prior to purchase and installation.

Applicant described intent to install aluminum half-round gutters to match sizes of current gutters; new gutters and downspouts to be bronze in color. Applicant clarified existing hangers will be used wherever possible and new downspouts will be corrugated. Applicant also noted existing slate roof will be repaired in-kind as needed.

Mr. Evans inquired if angled feature of new patio along southwest corner is new design feature; Applicant responded that footprint of new patio aligns with wall of existing garage apartment, including angled corner. Mr. Roeder inquired about proposed material for patio decking; Applicant currently envisions pressure-treated wood but might also consider composite decking material (Trex or comparable). Ms. Starbuck noted composite decking would be acceptable as long as ends properly terminate into trim boards so sawed edges are not visible. Applicant continued that current desire is to paint wood decking to match wooden handrail assemblies. Ms. Starbuck suggested oil-based stains are better than paint for exterior wood patio details. Mr. Evans noted high quality wood decking (Ipe, mahogany, etc.) functions better without any paint or stain finish. Applicant responded that current desire is for pressure-treated wood elements to be stained six months after installation, with option to return to HCC at later date if desired selection is revised from wood to composite decking. Mr. Roeder suggested resulting resolution could be formulated to allow for either decking selection.

Applicant continued by clarifying that new exterior steps along west façade between existing structure and new rear patio will be wood (not concrete as currently detailed) with aluminum tubing handrail assemblies. Applicant noted if final design results in lower handrail extensions that extend out to public sidewalk, design will be modified so extensions return on each side. Applicant also noted landscaping envisioned on either side of new steps between retaining wall of new patio and public sidewalk.

Mr. Roeder inquired about detail of patio piers with stone veneer and integrated lamp posts. Applicant confirmed intent for seven post light fixtures at stone piers, as depicted in provided details but noted fixture selection has not been finalized. Applicant agreed to submit

specifications of proposed post lamps for review/approval by Historic Officer and HCC chair prior to purchase and installation.

Applicant confirmed existing outdoor stairway along east (side) façade will be replaced in-kind. Mr. Roeder noted no further discussion by HCC is required as long as replacement stairway is also code compliant.

Public Commentary: None

The Commission upon motion by Mr. Roeder and seconded by Mr. Hudak adopted the proposal that City Council issue a Certificate of Appropriateness for the proposed work as presented, with modifications described as follows:

- Proposal to replace windows, roofing, demolish rear apartment and build patio with outside bar, replace doors, reconstruct trim and install half-round aluminum gutters was presented by Bruce Campbell.
- 2. Approved improvements include:
 - a. amend original Certificate of Appropriateness (Case #697) to allow Jeld-Wen replacement windows in 2-over-2 double-hung configuration (original resolution required 1-over-1 windows) with aluminum exterior cladding in bronze color; exterior storm windows to include full screen detail
 - demolish rear garage apartment and replace with rear patio and outdoor bar; associated details include:
 - footprint of new patio aligns with wall of existing garage apartment (including angled southwest corner) with masonry retaining wall below to receive stucco finish; recessed niche with slatted gate as dedicated location for refuse is located under eastern end of patio along Evans Street
 - ii. patio perimeter is defined by series of piers clad in stone veneer with painted wooden handrail and picket assemblies between; stone piers are capped with flat masonry slabs
 - iii. seven stone piers integrate tall metal lampposts for overall illumination; specifications of proposed post lamps must be submitted for review/approval by Historic Officer and HCC chair prior to purchase and installation
 - iv. series of tall 8-inch x 8-inch wooden posts with trim to match existing wooden trim at main structure support flat roof with EPDM rubber roof membrane; proposed flat roof extends out from rear of main house addition to shelter new outdoor bar while remaining patio is without any cover
 - v. exposed façade of main building under covered bar area is sheathed with 6-inch smooth paintable cement board siding; tall fence along eastern side of new patio is intended as privacy screen with adjacent property
 - vi. 6-inch wide pressure treated decking to receive oil-based stain to match wooden handrail assembly, with option to use composite decking as alternate as long as ends properly terminate into trim boards so sawed edges are not visible
 - removal of (non-original) covered stoop at southwest corner and replace with covered stoop with details to match original wood trim as well as new pent roof with copper metal flashing as roof cladding
 - d. removal of (non-original) concrete steps, covered stoop and entrance door along west façade; associated details include:
 - i. replace door opening with window to match other 2-over-2 double-hung replacement windows; detailing of masonry repairs around replacement window to match remaining windows
 - ii. repairs resulting from removal of existing steps should match adjacent surfaces
 - iii. entire façade below water table should be finished with pigmented stucco for uniform appearance

- e. removal of (non-original) entrance doors at south (front), southwest corner (main) and north (rear) entrances and replace with appropriate replacement doors, including trim to match original; associated details include:
 - i. 'Vintage Doors: Colonial Style' available through A.D. Moyer (Coopersburg, PA) or comparable is appropriate replacement for southwest corner (main) entrance door: three-quarter height lite (not divided) with double panels below and upper transom with 4-lite divisions
 - ii. remaining replacement entrance doors are similar to replacement main entrance door, but with half-height lite (not divided) and double panels below; door at south (front) entrance also with upper transom with 4-lites, decorative corbel brackets on either side of transom, details to match original wood trim as well as copper metal flashing as roof cladding for shallow covered stoop
 - iii. specifications of proposed replacement doors must be submitted for review/approval by Historic Officer and HCC chair prior to purchase and installation
- f. various improvements along west façade; associated details include:
 - i. existing 2-over-2 double-hung window sash at roof dormer to be repaired in-kind
 - ii. replace small window at upper level (beneath roof dormer) with similar window sash but with 2-lite configuration; otherwise, replace with full-size 2-over-2 double-hung window to match other replacement windows
 - iii. openings created upon removal of existing ventilation covers, louvered openings, conduits, etc. should be appropriately patched to match original adjacent surfaces
- g. installation of new half-round aluminum gutters to replace original; associated details include:
 - i. new gutters and downspouts to be bronze in color
 - ii. existing hangers will be used wherever possible
 - iii. new downspouts will be corrugated
- h. construction of new, code-compliant wooden exterior steps along east (side) façade to replace in-kind existing stairway
- 3. Applicant agreed to return to HCC with future design proposals for signage that satisfy requirements identified on Certificate of Appropriateness Application and respect 'Guidelines for Signage' within Historic Conservation District.

The motion for the proposed work was unanimously approved.

Old Business: None

General Business: Minutes from HCC meeting on August 19, 2019 were approved 7-0-1, with Mr. Loush abstaining due to absence from previous meeting.

There was no further business; HCC meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

BY: _____

Jeffrey Long Historic Officer

South Bethlehem Historic Conservation District

Mt. Airy Historic District

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