

**FRANKLIN HERITAGE COMMISSION MINUTES**

**MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 2022 at 6:00 P.M.**

**City Hall - 316 Central Street**

- ❑ **Call to Order** 6:00 p.m.

**Salute to the Flag** – led by Joya Clark

- ❑ **Attendance:** Chairman Glen Feener, Colby Morrill, Bob Lucas, Councilor Paul Trudel, Alternate Leigh Webb - seated for Tim Stangroom, Alternate Joya Clark (not seated) (Absent: Tim Stangroom).
- ❑ **Approval of Minutes of the July 11, 2021 Public Meeting of the Board.** Member Webb made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Member Lucas. **Motion carried 4-0-1 with Councilor Trudel abstaining as he was not present due to City Council Meeting.**

- ❑ **New Business:**

**H 22-13:** The City of Franklin and Franklin Business & Industrial Development Corporation (FBIDC), are applying for approval of multiple architectural relics to be placed on various properties throughout the historic district. Map/lot numbers will vary.

Director Creighton spoke to the application on behalf of the City and the Economic Development Task Force. He gave an overview of the purpose of the Task Force and who is on it. The idea is to use the architectural relics as an art walk but adding a “Franklin twist.” He explained that the idea is to have them on concrete pads throughout the City and eventually get plaques to explain the purpose of each piece.

Member Webb suggested the idea that the Whitewater Park might want some of the pieces displayed along the river to lend a sense of where they would have been used originally. Chairman Feener acknowledged his appreciation of the City bringing this idea to the Commission and including them in the plans. Councilor Trudel expressed concerns about the appropriateness of the pieces as they looked to be more for electrical power generation, not the textile mills that Franklin was known for. Member Webb confirmed that electrical power generation was a factor here in the late 1800s. Councilor Trudel also expressed concerns about the look of rusty, “scrap metal” throughout the City.

Member Lucas asked where the idea for this came from and expressed concerns about the liability stemming around the safety of the pieces. He would like to see a more specific plan for which pieces on which lots and see it go beyond the downtown area. He also recognized that abutters may not want something like this near their property. A lengthy discussion ensued with many members expressing concerns about the look and safety of the pieces as they are rusty

APPROVED 10/17/2022

metal and could be dangerous to children. The idea was brought up about having them painted/powder-coated to protect them from graffiti, etc. and where would the money come from to do that. Director Creighton reminded the Commission that funding is beyond their purview.

Member Morrill offered some ideas of how the pieces could be used more artistically. Chairman Feener thought the concept of an art walk could work but felt that they needed more information on specifics about the location and exact pieces. He expressed concerns about them looking like rusted junk if they are not cleaned up. Other members agreed they would need more information to offer a decision.

Member Webb made a motion to approve the application, seconded by Councilor Trudel. Member Webb then made a motion to table the discussion, seconded by Councilor Trudel.

**Motion carried to table 5-0-0.**

**H 22-14:** Ferrari Franklin Mills Realty and City of Franklin are applying to demolish the brick building known as “Stanley Mill” at 93 Memorial Street in order to facilitate ground contamination clean up. The property is located at Map/Lot #117-142-00.

Director Creighton presented the application on behalf of the City. The brick building, known as Stanley Mill, has an order from the Fire Chief from almost a year ago that the building is unsafe and needs to be torn down or repaired. Recent inspections of the property have shown that repairs are not possible, but the bigger issue is the ground contamination. Demolishing the building will allow the City to obtain grants to clean up the contamination.

Member Webb said that, even as a preservationist, he supported that building coming down. Councilor Trudel asked for confirmation that the Armory building on the site did not have any contamination. Director Creighton said the property has been tested numerous times and confirmed that the Armory would not need to come down based on those tests. Member Lucas asked for assurance that the land would be cleaned up and left in good condition. Director Creighton confirmed that it would be.

Councilor Trudel made a motion to approve the demolition, seconded by Member Lucas. **Motion carried 5-0-0.**

- ❑ **Other Business:** None
- ❑ **Adjournment:** Member Lucas made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Member Webb. **Motion carried 5-0-0. Meeting adjourned at 6:54 p.m.**

Respectfully submitted,

Judy Bibbins  
Administrative Assistant for Planning and Zoning