

MINUTES
September 25, 2024 – 5:30 p.m.
Construction Appeal & Advisory Board
Muscatine City Hall
Lower-Level Conference Room

Present: Devin Abel, Jim Nobel, and Tim Kelly

Absent: Ken Gilkerson and James Miller

Staff: Andrew Fangman, Assistant Community Development Director

Also Present: Jeff Osborne

Minutes:

Meeting called to order at 5:24 pm.

Jim Nobel moved, seconded by Devin Able to approve the minutes from the June 12, 2024. The motion passed by a 3-0 vote.

Tim Kelly moved, seconded by Jim Nobel to approve the minutes from the August 25, 2024. The motion passed by a 3-0 vote.

A discussion took place regarding the State Historic Building Code. This code aims to restore or modify historic buildings while preserving their original architecture, ensuring safety and cost-effectiveness. It replaces certain accessibility sections of the International Existing Building Code (IEBC) with standards from Chapter 302 of the Iowa Administrative Code, offering more flexibility in meeting federal accessibility requirements. Jeff Osborne spoke in favor such an amendment.

Having previously agreed to recommend a local amendment mirroring the State Historic Building Code, the board discussed eligibility criteria for applying the proposed amendment to the code.

Two approaches were discussed:

- Mirroring State Historic Building Code: Require structures to be individually listed on the National Register, listed as contributing structures in a National Register-listed historic district, or have a certification of eligibility.
- Establishing Age or Built-By Date: Set a specific age or built-by date for eligible structures

After weighing the pros and cons of each approach, the board reached a consensus that a local amendment to the City Building Code mirroring the State Historic Building Code should also use the same eligibility criteria.

Tim Kelly moved, seconded by Devin Able to make a recommendation that City Council adopted an amendment to the City Building Code mirroring the State Historic Building Code, including the eligibility criteria. The motion passed by a 3-0 vote.

The board discussed a potential amendment to eliminate the engineering plan requirement for post-framed buildings under 1,440 square feet. They expressed conceptual support for this change.

Questions arose about how post-frame buildings currently bypass the engineering requirement. The board agreed to address this issue at the next meeting as a potential action item. They requested answers to their specific questions about the current handling of such buildings be included in the agenda packet for the next meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 6:01 p.m.

ATTEST:

Respectfully Submitted,

Devin Abel Chairperson
Construction Appeal & Advisory Board

Andrew Oien, Secretary
Building Division Manager