

Borough of Carlisle
Historical and Architectural Review Board

Meeting Minutes – February 2, 2026

Members present: Ed Hazel, Vice Chair; Joshua Dourte; Doug Heineman; Jordon Holley; and Martin Siefering

Members not present: Thomas Easterly, Chair; and Alyssa DeBlasio

Staff Members present: Jared Woolston, SCEP Director; and Jim Sutter, Senior Planner

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m.

Approval of Minutes:

Meeting Minutes – January 6, 2026 Regular Meeting

Mr. Heineman moved the January 6, 2026 regular meeting minutes be approved as presented. Mr. Dourte seconded the motion. The motion passed on a unanimous voice vote.

Regular Agenda:

- 1. Consideration of a request for a Certificate of Appropriateness from Christopher Powers for the property located at 21 South Hanover Street to install a sign.**

The applicant is applying for retroactive approval of an already installed sign. No representative for the Applicant was in attendance. An image of the sign was shown to the HARB members. Based on this image and staff support for the request, the consensus of the HARB members was that the request met the guidelines of the Historic District.

Mr. Holley moved that the Board recommend Council approve the request for a Certificate of Appropriateness from Christopher Powers for the property located at 21 South Hanover Street to install a sign. Mr. Siefering seconded the motion. The motion passed on a unanimous voice vote.

- 2. Consideration of a request for a Certificate of Appropriateness from Antone Araman for the property located at 55 East Pomfret Street to construct a shed-roof style shed.**

The applicant is currently out of the state and was unable to attend the meeting. Limited information was provided in the application to

demonstrate compliance with the Historic District guidelines. Mr. Sutter stated he had made contact with the applicant and they did state the structure would be made of wood with metal siding and roof. He expressed his intent to meet with staff upon his return to Carlisle next week. Upon a question from Mr. Hazel, Mr. Sutter indicated Staff feels the application should be tabled until after the applicant is able to provide the additional information.

Mr. Heineman moved that the Board table the request for a Certificate of Appropriateness from Antone Araman for the property located at 55 East Pomfret Street to construct a shed-roof style shed. Mr. Siefering seconded the motion. The motion passed on a unanimous voice vote.

Other Business

3. Discussion of Potential Educational Article

Mr. Woolston noted that Mr. Siefering had an idea for a potential article to place in Borough publications regarding HARB requirements and the Historic District. Mr. Siefering stated, as a board member who resides in the Historic District, that he has had multiple conversations in the past with other residents who ask him if it is annoying having to deal with HARB requirements. While he always informs them that the requirements are not overly onerous, Mr. Siefering expressed a belief that there is a misconception regarding the HARB that is a remnant of old requirements. He stated he had had a conversation with Mr. Woolston on strategies for altering that perception. He thought of writing an article educating residents on the HARB requirements and process to destigmatize the process and was hoping to discuss it with the other board members.

Mr. Holley noted, as a Building Inspector, that he does not typically get negative comments, mostly just questions about the process. He also indicated he had not heard of a property's location in the Historic District as a deterrence of purchasing. Mr. Heineman added, as a real estate broker, that he has not seen any depression of sales in the Historic District. He noted this perception is likely left over from the operation of the HARB in the 1980's and 1990's. He stated Council undertook a modernization of the HARB's roles in the 2000's when he was a member that streamlined the process. Mr. Siefering noted this perception appears to persist. Mr. Dourte expressed his belief that people are hearing stories of difficulties in the Historic District review in other municipalities.

Mr. Woolston noted the requirement for a Certificate of Appropriateness for maintenance work surprises people. Mr. Dourte expressed his opinion that it is surprising that an in-kind replacement requires review and

approval in a public meeting. Mr. Siefering stated that, based on his research, other municipalities give more authority to Staff in approving these sorts of requests. Mr. Woolston stated the HARB requirements are in the Zoning Ordinance, which requires Council approval to amend. He expressed his belief there may be an appetite for deferring more of these reviews to Staff. However, he stated it is his preference to focus this article on educating residents on the HARB process and potential amendments to the Zoning Ordinance can be brought before the Land Use Reform subcommittee.

It was the consensus of the board that Mr. Siefering would draft an article focusing on educating residents on the HARB review process and circulate it to the other members for their review and comments before the next meeting. In the meantime, Mr. Woolston noted he would bring potential changes to the HARB review process to the Land Use Reform subcommittee to gauge their support and receive comments.

A brief discussion ensued on reviving the Project of the Year Award. Mr. Woolston noted the HARB should consider how they want this process to work. There was a previous process, so they don't need to start from scratch, but there are also many other ways they could approach the matter.

There being no other business, the HARB adjourned at 5:52 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Jim Sutter, Senior Planner