On November 3, 2021, the Forsyth County Historic Resources Commission ("Commission") conducted, in the above referenced matter, a public hearing in accordance with the statutes and case law pertaining to quasi-judicial proceedings for the issuance of certificates of appropriateness. Commission member Kaky Berry was recused from consideration of this matter. During the hearing, Michelle McCullough, Historic Resources Officer, presented the staff report, findings, and recommendation. Jeffrey Fansler, Deputy Director of Transportation, City of Winston-Salem, applicant, appeared to present testimony and evidence in support of the application. Old Salem residents Bob Little, Rosemary Epperly, Linda Hobbs, Kevin Simmons, Howard Kelly and Joe Maderas, appeared to present testimony and evidence in opposition to the application.

After presentation of all testimony and evidence, the Forsyth County Historic Resources Commission, based upon the evidence presented in the application and during the hearing, finds that the proposed project is not incongruous with the character of the Old Salem Historic District because:

1) The proposed project will resurface portions of Old Salem Road and Brookstown Avenue; remove portions of Old Salem Road and seed the area in grass; grade the grass area and install a berm to ensure drainage; and widen an existing portion of Old Salem Road. This change will remove a major incongruous feature, the roadway, and place the area back into a use that requires minimal change to the defining characteristics of the site and environment. (Secretary’s Standards, Rehabilitation, Standards 1 and 2)

2) The proposed work includes the relocation of five existing utility poles. The new poles will require the trimming of two existing trees and removal of four trees: two American Beech, one Silver Maple, and one Green Ash. The Green Ash tree is in a state of decline and infested with the Emerald Ash Borers. The City’s Urban Forester has stated that due to the Emerald Ash Borers, the tree will not likely survive another growing season. The Silver Maple is in moderate health. However, it has dead limbs in the crown and decay fungus. The City’s Urban Forester states that given the species characteristics, current condition, and excavation/construction to take place within its immediate environment, this tree is a good candidate for removal. The two American Beech trees were found by the City’s Urban Forester to be in good condition and growing with vigor. However, the road widening, and utility pole relocation could compromise the root systems and will almost certainly submit their crowns to harsh utility pruning in the future. The utility lines cannot be relocated underground because such a major project would affect all vegetation and other features in the right-of-way, which would disturb the historic character that exists on the east side of Old Salem Road. (Significant Landscape Features, Old Salem Standard 4 and Public Rights-of-Way, Old Salem, Standard 8)
3) The proposed project includes new standard traffic signs that meet NCDOT Standards. The proposed new signs are metal and will be installed on posts that are typically 10’ in height. They vary in size, with the largest being a triangular sign that is 36” x 36” x 36”. The sheen to be applied to each sign meets the NC DOT, Division of Highways, Transportation Mobility and Safety Standards for retroreflective sign sheeting. The material, size, scale, typeface and character are appropriate for the major thoroughfare. The signage is not obtrusive, and it does not cover any building facades, significant architectural features, or block streetscape views. The signage is removable, and the posts relate to the sign and type of street. (Signage, Old Salem Standards 2, 3, 4, 5, and 9)

4) The proposed project installs a new brick sidewalk on the south side of Brookstown Avenue from Liberty Street to Main Street. The brick will be Pathway Autumn (rumbled), which was approved by the Commission and used recently in the Old Salem Infrastructure project. The new curbing will be concrete and differentiated from the historic granite curbing. (Public Rights-of-Way, Old Salem Standard 6)

5) The proposed project installs new pedestrian signals at the intersection of Academy Street and Old Salem Road. The new signals will be black-painted metal. The pedestrian signals and pushbuttons will be located on a combination of existing or replaced wooden utility poles or on new metal poles. The Type I pushbutton pole will be 5’ high. The Type II pedestrian signal pole will be a minimum of 7’ and a max of 10’ to the base of the signal heads. The signal head will add another 3’ to the total height. The square base will measure 13.75” x 13.75” and will be 15” high. The signals are being installed to provide the necessary pedestrian safety to cross the busy intersection. The signals will not be installed on any historic structures and will not affect the character defining features of the District. The signals will be painted black to make them as unobtrusive as possible. (Safety, Accessibility, and Code Requirements, Old Salem Standards 1 and 6)

Based on the preceding findings, the Forsyth County Historic Resources Commission hereby approves COA2021-082 for work at Academy Street, Liberty Street, Main Street, and Old Salem Road, located in the Old Salem Historic District, with the following conditions:

1) The applicant shall stop construction and contact staff for further direction if during the project any archaeological resources are discovered;

2) Within six months of completion of the work, the applicant shall plant at least six new trees on the applicant’s property bounded by Old Salem Road, Main Street, and Brookstown Avenue. The species and location of said trees shall be approved by the City’s Urban Forester and staff;

3) The applicant shall receive, prior to commencement of the work, all other required permits or permissions from governmental agencies;
4) Commission staff shall review and approve any revisions or deviations to any portion of the as-submitted work, that qualifies as a minor work, prior to commencement of that portion of the project; and,

5) The applicant shall submit the Certificate of Appropriateness Request for Certification of Completed Work form and photo documentation of the completed project to HRC staff within ten (10) days of its completion.

This the fourth day of November, 2021.

[Signature]

Kevin G. Owen, Chair
Forsyth County Historic Resources Commission
CERTIFICATE OF APPROPRIATENESS
Date: November 3, 2021
CASE #: COA2021-082

On November 3, 2021, the Forsyth County Historic Resources Commission approved the issuance of this Certificate of Appropriateness (COA) on the application for the following work at Academy Street, Liberty Street, Main Street, and Old Salem Road in Winston-Salem, in the Old Salem Historic District.

- Liberty/Main two-way conversation project

Approval of this item was granted subject to the following conditions:

1) The applicant shall stop construction and contact staff for further direction if during the project any archaeological resources are discovered;

2) Within six months of completion of the work, the applicant shall plant at least six new trees on the applicant's property bounded by Old Salem Road, Main Street, and Brookstown Avenue. The species and location of said trees shall be approved by the City's Urban Forester and staff;

3) The applicant shall receive, prior to commencement of the work, all other required permits or permissions from governmental agencies;

4) Commission staff shall review and approve any revisions or deviations to any portion of the as-submitted work, that qualifies as a minor work, prior to commencement of that portion of the project; and,

5) The applicant shall submit the Certificate of Appropriateness Request for Certification of Completed Work form and photo documentation of the completed project to HRC staff within ten (10) days of its completion.

This COA runs with the property upon which the work is to be performed. The COA does not serve in any manner as a certification by the HRC or the Winston-Salem/Forsyth County Planning Division that the applicant or anyone else has the authority to be on the subject property to perform the approved work. You should perform your own due diligence to confirm whether you have the legal authority to be on the property to perform the approved work.

This Certificate of Appropriateness expires on November 3, 2024.

__________________________
Kevin G. Owen AIA, Chair
Forsyth County Historic Resources Commission

The scope of work for this project must meet all other applicable building codes and ordinances. Any additional approvals or permits from the City must be obtained prior to initiating work.