

June 22, 2022 Wednesday

To: Marcia C. Moermond, Legislative Hearing Officer
Office of the City Council, City Hall
15 W. Kellogg Blvd, Suite 310
Saint Paul MN 55102-1615
(651)266-8585
legislativehearings@ci.stpaul.mn.us

Cc: Matt Dornfeld, Supervisor
Department of Safety and Inspections
375 Jackson Street, Suite 220
Saint Paul, MN 55101-1024
P: (651)266-1902
Matt.Dornfeld@ci.stpaul.mn.us

From: Lisa H. Lee, owner occupant
(651)295-5183 (cell flip phone, for call in by hearing officer)
(651)222-6023 (land line at 181 Sherburne Ave., answering machine, no caller I.D.)
Lee_minnesota@yahoo.com

Re: Appeal of vacant building designation for
181 Sherburne Ave.
Saint Paul MN 55103-2038

Summary: I would like the vacant building designation removed from my house at 181 Sherburne Ave. based on 3 reasons:

1. The house is structurally sound with functioning major systems.
2. Since getting the vacant building sign posted on June 7, I have already paid 2 deposits to have work done on the house and have scheduled an estimate for more work. I am working energetically on getting this and other work done.
3. I am a person who has contributed to the well being of Saint Paul and am deserving of compassion to allow me to continue occupying and getting the house worked on.

If you repeal the vacant building status of 181 Sherburne Ave., you will congratulate yourself on making a just decision. You will not regret it, and you will know you have done good for the world and for the life of a worthy human being.

1) 181 Sherburne Ave. is a sound structure

1987—Wiring was upgraded to 100 amp electrical service before I bought the house.

1987—Steel pipe plumbing was replaced by copper before I bought the house.

1990's—McQuillan Brothers (Saint Paul) installed a radiator valve on a radiator near the front door so the heat can be turned down on that radiator.

1990's—Seibert and Sons (Maplewood) installed new gutters and downspouts. Seibert did me a big favor—he installed large gutters so no gutter cleaning/leaf removal is needed. The leaves just wash out the downspouts. I did not realize till later what a great choice he made. Still in good shape.

1990's—House and garage painted by Chris Robichaud Painting (Arden Hills).

Dec. 2005 New Burnham hot water boiler installed by McQuillan Brothers (Saint Paul). Still in good shape.

Aug. 2015 Vertical pipe connected to radiator replaced by McQuillan Brothers (the new McQuillan, now based in Maplewood).

Oct. 2015 House and garage reroofed by Sullivan Construction (Hastings). They used architectural shingles. They also cut new wood posts to support the rear entranceway, replacing the old ones.

Nov-Dec 2020 Zac Collins of Professional Wildlife Services (Minneapolis area) set traps for squirrels and put metal or hardware cloth to exclude squirrels and birds.

Mar. 2021 Standard Heating (Saint Paul) replaced fill valve to hot water boiler.

2) Owner is actively seeking contractors to work on house and has paid 2 deposits with more to come

June 2022 On June 6, I had scheduled a painting estimate for June 10 Friday with Paris Painting (Brooklyn Park) before I knew my house had been deemed a vacant building. I paid 1/3 down on the same day. Painting date is TBD. I had asked if they could complete by June 27 or earlier but they have other customers and it has been very hot. They are going to paint the house, the garage, and the inside of the front porch with Sherwin Williams Duration latex flat paint. I think the house will look dramatically better. I let it go too long before Robichaud painting and before Paris painting to occur. To prepare for them, bushes near house and garage have been trimmed, and remnants of grape vines have been scraped from 1st floor level –will let Paris painters remove vines above 1st floor.

June 10, 2022 Contacted Professional Wildlife Services. Birds were effectively excluded by sheet metal installed by them in 2020 on the front gable of the house, except that then the birds pecked the wood shakes next to the sheet metal. June 19 received a quote for some additional sheet metal. June 20 paid ¼ down. Sheet work date TBD.

June 11, 2022 Wrote Twin City Handyman (Woodbury) . Got a reply June 14 and scheduled estimate for June 17. Estimate was canceled due to injury of estimator and rescheduled for June 27. Will ask whether he is interested in various projects including repair of wall and ceiling of inside of rear entranceway. Ceiling damage was due to squirrels. Wildlife Services put sheet metal so they can't get in again. Wall

damage was due to hole in downspout letting water onto roof of rear entranceway. Got new gutters from Seibert and Sons so no more water damage after that.

3) Owner has contributed to Saint Paul and surrounding area and is worthy of kindness, compassion, and the rescinding of vacant building designation

I am a volunteer musician in community bands and other community music ensembles. As a member of these groups I have performed in senior residences, nursing homes, adult day care, parks, parades, and food shelf benefit concerts. I have performed in several of the annual Saint Paul Police memorial ceremonies.

Among the senior/nursing facilities performed in Saint Paul:

Alton Memory Care

Wellington

Espiscopal Homes

Carondelet Village

Hamline High Rise

Saint Anthony Park Home

1666 Coffman

Hayes Residence

Little Sisters of the Poor

Cerenity Humboldt

Realife Cooperative—Phalen Village

Cerenity Marian Center

Midwest Special Services

Union Gospel Mission

I have played at others in Maplewood, Arden Hills, Roseville, White Bear Lake, Stillwater, Woodbury, Cottage Grove, Minneapolis.

I was a long time volunteer usher for History Theatre, Park Square Theatre, and Penumbra Theatre. I ushered for neighborhood performances of Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra until the pandemic shut down the concerts.

I coordinated over a dozen Red Cross blood drives, ended with the pandemic. I still donate blood to American Red Cross during the pandemic.

I am a person you want to encourage to thrive.