By Phil Davis

Tsunami mural retroactively approved

By Danielle Ohl

The controversy over the mural exhibited across Tsunami restaurant has come to a swift close.

The Historic Preservation Commission on Tuesday night voted to approve the painting on the facade of the building. After months of discussion, the commission unanimously approved the mural, with no prior discussion. The choice to retroactively accept the mural was unanimously voted in 2015, followed a years-long debate over the building’s facade. The West Street building falls within Annapolis’s Historic District, but the mural was commissioned without approval from the HPC, which balked at it initially.

The commission previously argued it had jurisdiction over alterations of historic facades. Buckley said he had missed a meeting on the mural’s approval, and, in his opinion, determined the city’s best course of action was to retroactively accept the mural.

In more eagle-eyed filings against the city, rather than applying for a retrospective certificate of approval to prove a point, he said, “We want the city to think about some other appraiser or some other way that doesn’t require a certificate of approval. They’re no more justified than I am.”

The commission also considered a city plan submitted by Douglas Bublitz with ERA Engineering, Inc. to brick Main Street in front of Tsunami and separating pavers. With the commission’s approval, the project will move forward. Ongoing discussions are expected.

“We can do about 20 of those a month,” borough said. “We would just be working on an area of a parking spot, so it won’t be massive disruption to the business.”

The city will install the water lines from Main Street.

A group that has also called for the commission’s approval, the project will move forward. Officials said statistics concluded that the new flight paths cause planes to fly too low near residential neighborhoods.

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