

From: Lois Laczko August 5, 2011 9:08:06 AM
Subject: Historic District Commission Minutes 07/07/2011 ADOPTED
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Cc:

ADOPTED

HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION MINUTES
JULY 7, 2011
REGULAR MEETING

I. ROLL CALL

Commission members present were Ken Feder, Diane Mead, Denise Alfeld and Paul Lanza. Dr. Feder, acting as Chairman, called the regular meeting of the Historic District Commission to order at 7:35 p.m. in the Main Meeting Room at the Simsbury Town Offices. Also in attendance were Lynn Charest, Zoning Enforcement Officer, Janis Prifti, Commission Clerk, and other interested parties.

II. APPOINTMENT OF ALTERNATES

Paul Lanza was appointed as an alternate for Evan Woollacott (vacancy).

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES of June 2, 2011

Commissioner Mead made a motion to approve the June 2, 2011 minutes as written. Commissioner Alfeld seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

IV. PUBLIC HEARING(s), DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE VOE

1. 11-03 Application of James T. Jones, Owner, for a Certificate of Appropriateness for construction of a stone patio with brown stone sitting walls on property located at 66 East Weatogue Street.

Commissioner Alfeld moved that the application be read into the record. Commissioner Mead seconded the motion. The applicant identified himself for the record as Jim Jones of 66 East Weatogue Street. Mr. Jones stated he would like to extend and construct a bluestone patio with brownstone walls approximately 20' from the side of the existing house so they can use more of the outside of the house. He said he would be using blue and brown stone similar to the front at 21" around the edge and all of the patio will

be bluestone, and there will be a lot of landscaping. He said the railing will be exactly the same design as it is now. Commissioner Mead asked to see the sketch. Mr. Jones explained the layout and stated where the existing deck ends is where the house starts and the garage ends. Commissioner Lanza asked if he had confirmed the age of the existing deck. Mr. Jones said the current deck is wood and they will build steps down to the patio, the same as the brownstone wall in the front. Commissioner Mead asked how much will be extended, as the Commission is concerned about what can be seen from the road. Mr. Jones answered that it would actually extend beyond what is currently there approximately 20' and the sitting wall will be visible from East Weatogue Street and landscaped. Commissioner Lanza asked what is a sitting wall? Mr. Jones said the standard length from the ground to a persons knee bend is 21", so it is a short wall. Commissioners Mead and Alfeld asked how far over from the house does it actually extend? Mr. Jones stated they will go 20' north/northeast. Commissioner Mead stated that a gazebo was formerly on the property and was put up without permission. Mr. Jones stated the gazebo was not there when they bought the house. Commissioner Mead said the proposed construction and landscaping appears to line up well with the existing bushes tying in beautifully. The Commissioners all stated the plan looked good. Mr. Jones stated his wife grew up here and they are happy to be living here.

Chairman Feder asked for a vote. Commissioner Alfeld made a motion to approve Application 11-03. Commissioner Mead seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved and signed. Mr. Jones thanked the Commission.

V. DISCUSSION ITEMS

a. Informal presentation by Andrew Touchette, Adams & Ruxton Construction to discuss re-siding, replacement of rotted trim and replacement of windows for the Kerr Agency, 736 Hopmeadow Street, an historic carriage house

Mr. Touchette stated 736 Hopmeadow Street is near Bank of America and the Bank asked his firm to make needed improvements to the building. He brought photos of Kerr Insurance's location which he clarified is not the actual bank building. He said the bank has asked his firm to re-side the building because the current siding can no longer be repainted. His firm proposes to do the re-siding with hardy plank cement board. Commissioner Lanza stated the Starbucks building has the same material. Mr. Touchette said that fiberboard will last much longer with no insect problems. He said they also want to replace the windows and are looking at vinyl clad windows made out of wood that will match the grid style. He said that on the back side, there are bronze aluminum windows and they are not intending to replace them. Commissioner Mead said this is what we want, nice clean

lines, and Commissioner Alfeld said they are great. Mr. Touchette added there are some handrails that lead up a ramp and he wants to replace them with a composite material, like Trex, and they have to be ADA compliant with a secondary bar. Mr. Touchette said it was originally a carriage house; they will try to replace some of the bay windows, but it will depend on whether or not they are rotted. He said they intend to replace all the windows except the aluminum windows which are in good shape. He said the paint color will remain similar and the goal is to make repairs, not to make things different. Commissioner Feder thanked him for updating the Commission, even though the building is not in the Historic District. Mr. Touchette spoke about the roof of his building in West Springfield blowing off during the recent tornado and discussion ensued.

b. Election of Officers

The Commissioners discussed the responsibilities of each position - Chairman, Vice Chairman, and Clerk, who keeps the minutes, although that is actually handled by staff. Town descriptions of position responsibilities were read.

Commissioner Mead nominated Dr. Feder for Chairman, seconded by Commissioner Alfeld. Commissioner Alfeld nominated Commissioner Mead for Vice Chairman, seconded by Commissioner Feder. Commissioner Mead nominated Commissioner Alfeld for Clerk, seconded by Commissioner Feder. Commissioner Lanza made the motion to elect the nominated officers. Commissioner Feder seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved. Lynn Charest clarified that usually the elections occur at the first meeting in January. Commissioner Alfeld asked for a listing of who the current members are, and what positions are open, e.g. the alternate Democrat. Chairman Feder asked if we have to know what party they are a member of to fill the slots? Mr. Lanza stated you can't ask them what party they belong to, only if they want to belong to the Historic District Commission. Commissioner Mead stated she thought we needed a certain amount from outside the District. Lynn Charest said the ordinance requires that we have two regular members and one alternate who either live or own properties in the district.

VI. OTHER BUSINESS AS MAY PROPERLY COME BEFORE THE COMMISSION

None.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Lanza made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:12 p.m. Commissioner Alfeld seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

Denise Alfeld, Clerk