

APPLICATION FOR A CERTIFICATE OF APPROPRIATENESS

APPLICATION NUMBER: 21-05

**HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION - TOWN OF SIMSBURY**  
933 HOPMEADOW STREETSIMSBURY, CONNECTICUT 06070 - Telephone 860-658-3252 or 860-658-3245

Application is hereby made for the issuance of a Certificate of Appropriateness under the Historic District Ordinance of Simsbury, Connecticut, enacted pursuant to the enabling authority contained in Chapter 97, Section 7-147d, as amended, of the General Statutes of Connecticut, for proposed work as described below (and, where applicable, as shown on plans, drawings, or other supplementary material accompanying this application):

**HOME OWNER INFORMATION (required) PLEASE PRINT:**

Owner of Record: Andrew Golden and Heidi Golden

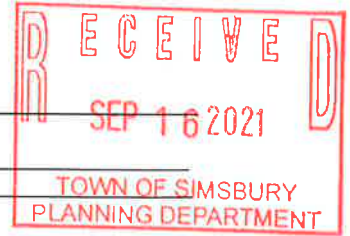
Address of Proposed Work: 57 East Weatogue Street, Simsbury, CT 06070

Owner's Telephone Number: 860-874-2719

Email Address: ahgolden@comcast.net

Owner's Mailing Address (if different from proposed work location): \_\_\_\_\_

Architect's Name (when applicable): N/A



**APPLICANT INFORMATION (if not owner) PLEASE PRINT:**

Applicant's Name: (same as above)

Applicant's Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Applicant's Telephone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

**PLEASE CHECK LINE WHERE PROPOSED WORK IS IN CONNECTION WITH:**

Dwelling \_\_\_\_\_

Accessory Building

Other \_\_\_\_\_

If other, please describe: (barn/garage)

Please briefly describe (print or type) the proposed work (you can also attach a summary). Be as specific as possible, including all pertinent design elements. Include all design data to scale. Site plans and elevations are required. Photographs will be helpful and may be required. Use attachments. (Please see attachment submitted herewith)

Estimated start date: 11-26-2021

Estimated completion date: 12-06-2021

Site Plan

Elevations

Photographs

(check off if attached)

**THE SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS ARE TO BE SUBMITTED TO TOWN STAFF NO LATER THAN TWO WEEKS PRIOR TO THE HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION MEETING.**

Andrew P. Keller  
SIGNATURE OF OWNER (signature required)

09-15-2021  
Date

**FOR COMMISSION USE ONLY:**

Date of Hearing: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Determination by Commission: \_\_\_\_\_

**(VALID FOR ONE YEAR)**

Application as Above Made: GRANTED: \_\_\_\_\_

DENIED: \_\_\_\_\_

**OR GRANTED WITH STIPULATIONS AS NOTED:** \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Commission Officer

Date

Andrew and Heidi Golden  
57 East Weatogue Street  
Simsbury, CT 06070

September 15, 2021

Town of Simsbury  
Historic District Commission  
933 Hopmeadow Street  
Simsbury, CT 06070

Dear Historic District Commission:

We were delighted to purchase and move into 57 East Weatogue Street on June 5, 2020. As you may recall, our property has two main buildings—the primary house and, directly behind, a barn/garage. We are seeking approval to install a 15.60 kW solar system consisting of thirty-nine (39) REC Alpha REC400AA Pure Black solar panels on the south-facing roof of the barn/garage.

The solar panels we have chosen are extremely low profile in appearance, but high end in technology and performance. The system will be self-contained within the barn/garage and will run through an existing electric subpanel located therein. The system is expected to produce sufficient power to offset approximately 71% of our current electric power usage and will significantly decrease our net carbon footprint. We are presently under contract with Zenernet Solar, with installation scheduled to begin on or around November 26, 2021, should the Historic District grant approval.

Pictures of the engineered system design, including the placement of the panels, as well as the views of the barn/garage roof from East Weatogue Street, are attached. As you can see, the entire south-facing roof of the barn/garage is blocked from view by either the house or surrounding heavy foliage. During winter months, parts of the south-facing roof may be viewable to northbound travelers on East Weatogue Street, but even then such vantage will remain partially obstructed by numerous mature trees on the south side of the property.

Finally, we urge the Commission to view installations of solar panels and similar technologies that increase energy efficiency and mitigate fossil fuel consumption as positive and beneficial additions to the East Weatogue Historic District. Indeed, allowing conscientiously and tastefully placed solar arrays may increase historic home property values and minimize potential homeowners' concerns about having to choose between living in a historic home and doing their part to combat climate change. Perhaps the best balance is found in situations like ours where the entire solar array will be located exclusively on a non-

primary building not directly facing, or in this case not clearly visible from, the road frontage. These issues are explored further in the attached article from the Energy News Network, "Connecticut Historic Preservation Boards Warming Up to Solar Panels," (March 4, 2019), which advocates for historic district commissions to be more open to applications for strategically placed solar panel systems.

In closing, we know that several other homes in the East Weatogue Historic District already have discretely located solar panel systems and we are hopeful for the opportunity to do the same on our historic property.

We thank the Commission for its consideration and would be happy to provide any additional information that might be helpful.

Respectfully submitted,

The image shows two handwritten signatures in cursive. The top signature is for Andrew S. Golden and the bottom signature is for Heidi E. Golden. Both signatures are written in dark ink and are positioned above their respective printed names.

Andrew S. Golden  
Heidi E. Golden