

The Wethersfield Historic District Commission held a Public Hearing on April 28, 2015 at the Wethersfield Town Hall, Town Manager's Conference Room – First Floor, 505 Silas Deane Highway, Wethersfield, Connecticut.

Members Present: Douglas Ovian, Vice Chairperson
Chris Lyons, Clerk Pro Tem
John Aforismo, Alternate
Damian Cregeau, Alternate

Members Absent: Robert Garrey, Chairperson
Mark Raymond
Daniel Bucknam, Alternate

Also Present: Kristin Stearley, Historic District Coordinator
Linda Messina, Recording Secretary

Commissioner Ovian called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM, and read the opening comments. Commissioner Lyons, read the Legal Notice as it appeared in the *Rare Reminder* on April 30, 2015.

APPLICATION NO. 4372-15. Gove Restoration LLC seeks to demolish the existing front porch railing and construct a new wood railing system with square balusters and a square newel post at 126 Church Street.

Adam Gove, Gove Restoration, PO Box 290151, appeared before the Commission. Drawings were submitted. They would like to re-floor the porch with Douglas fir tongue and groove flooring. The railing needs to be removed and brought up to code. The proposed railing system has cedar square balusters. The cedar bottom rail is a cedar 2x4 ripped in half and then sandwiches the balusters together. This railing system has been done before in Old Wethersfield. The stairs will be rebuilt using Douglas fir treads and pine risers. The lattice work will stay the same.

Commissioner Ovian asked whether there was anyone wishing to speak in favor or in opposition to this application. There being no one, this portion of the hearing was declared closed.

APPLICATION NO. 4373-15. Tom and Erin Kennedy seek to install external venting on the house for appliances, an a/c condenser unit and construct a 6' wood stockade privacy fence at 107 Garden Street.

Tom Kennedy, 138 Broad Street, appeared before the Commission. They would like to add a fence. A drawing and photos were submitted. The fence is a 6' x 8' panel style fence. It looks the same on both sides. The fence will be left natural and not stained or painted. The A/C units will be behind the fence. A drawing and photos were submitted. The units are 35" wide x 28 5/16" high. The venting is on the rear roof. There will be one on each side. There are sidewall vents. The vents will be stainless steel.

Commissioner Ovian asked whether there was anyone wishing to speak in favor or in opposition to this application. There being no one, this portion of the hearing was declared closed.

APPLICATION NO. 4374-15. Edward O'Connell seeks to retain the installation of fencing, the replacement of two (2) front doors and the re-construction of the front door landings/stairs at 31 Foote Path Lane.

Jack Silvia, Consultant, 305 Foley Avenue, Somerset, MA, appeared before the Commission. Photos and information on the fence were submitted. In June or July of 2013, he replaced an existing fence that was in poor condition. The contractor never received approval from the HDC to install the fence. The fence is pressure treated wood and is similar to the previous fence. They replaced the front and side door and extended the landing to accommodate a walker. Photos of doors were submitted.

Commissioner Ovia asked whether there was anyone wishing to speak in favor or in opposition to this application. There being no one, this portion of the hearing was declared closed.

APPLICATION NO. 4375-15. Elaine Cahill seeks to replace the wood deck rails and balusters with a vinyl railing system having square balusters at 292 Hartford Avenue.

Elaine Cahill, 292 Hartford Avenue, appeared before the Commission. She has an existing pressure-treated deck in the back of the house. It has square balusters. She wants to replace the rails with vertical vinyl rails. Photos of the proposed rails were submitted. The deck is stained light grey. There are horizontal pressure treated rails now. It is a rectangular deck on the 2nd story. It is 10-12' off the ground.

Commissioner Ovia asked whether there was anyone wishing to speak in favor or in opposition to this application. There being no one, this portion of the hearing was declared closed.

APPLICATION NO. 4376-15. Kathryn Johnson seeks to demolish the side walls of the front stairs and to install an aluminum railing system at 6 Railroad Place.

Kathryn Johnson and Joe Distin, 6 Railroad Place, appeared before the Commission. They would like to take down the walls around the stairs. The sides of the stairs will be painted the same color. They will install aluminum railings. They wanted to use white but they are open to using black. The rail will be affixed to the door trim and cemented into the ground.

Commissioner Ovia asked whether there was anyone wishing to speak in favor or in opposition to this application. There being no one, this portion of the hearing was declared closed.

APPLICATION NO. 4377-15. The Town of Wethersfield seeks to amend Certificate of Appropriateness Number 4271-15 to change the walkway material from brick pavers to bituminous pavers at 222 Main Street.

PLEASE NOTE THAT THE TOWN WILL USE THE BRICK PAVERS IT RECEIVED APPROVAL FOR ON CERTIFICATE OF APPROPRIATENESS NUMBER 4371-15 AND WOULD LIKE TO AMEND THIS CERTIFICATE TO CHANGE A PORTION OF THE WALKWAY FROM THE BRICK PAVER MATERIAL TO A RAISED CONCRETE WALKWAY. BITUMINOUS PAVING MATERIAL HAS BEEN REMOVED FROM THIS REQUEST AND CONCRETE HAS BEEN ADDED.

Jeff Bridges, Town Manager, 505 Silas Deane Highway, appeared before the Commission. They need to meander the path out a little bit. They will have pavers. They will have railings that lead up to the porch. They need to have concrete so they can mount the railings.

Commissioner Ovian asked whether there was anyone wishing to speak in favor or in opposition to this application. There being no one, this portion of the hearing was declared closed.

Upon motion by Commissioner Lyons seconded by Commissioner Aforismo, and a poll of the Commission, it was voted to close the public hearing on all applications and to open the public meeting.

Aye: Ovian, Lyons, Aforismo, Cregeau

APPLICATION NO. 4372-15. Gove Restoration LLC seeks to demolish the existing front porch railing and construct a new wood railing system with square balusters and a square newel post at 126 Church Street.

Upon motion by Commissioner Lyons seconded by Commissioner Cregeau and a poll of the Commission, it was voted to TABLE the application.

Discussion

Commissioner Ovian stated that if it's painted white, it will help, but he would rather not see that type of installation on that house. It is a classic Hubbard Colonial. This is one of Hubbard's more fancy houses. He has some doubts about the open bottom. It doesn't look like an old porch in any way. The house screams Colonial revival.

Commissioner Lyons stated that maybe they could use round columns instead of square.

Commissioner Aforismo stated that he agrees with Commissioner Ovian and the rail is too modern for that house.

Commissioner Cregeau stated that there really isn't anything else to do except have a solid piece there, but then the wood just rots sooner.

Aye: Ovian, Lyons, Aforismo, Cregeau

APPLICATION NO. 4373-15. Tom and Erin Kennedy seek to install external venting on the house for appliances, an a/c condenser unit and construct a 6' wood stockade privacy fence at 107 Garden Street.

Upon motion by Commissioner Lyons seconded by Commissioner Aforismo and a poll of the Commission, it was voted to APPROVE the application as submitted.

Discussion

Commissioner Ovian stated that everything proposed is consistent with structure and minimal impact.

Aye: Ovian, Lyons, Aforismo, Cregeau

APPLICATION NO. 4374-15. Edward O'Connell seeks to retain the installation of fencing, the replacement of two (2) front doors and the re-construction of the front door landings/stairs at 31 Foote Path Lane.

Upon motion by Commissioner Ovian seconded by Commissioner Cregeau and a poll of the Commission, it was voted to APPROVE the application as submitted.

Discussion

Commissioner Ovian stated that the house has had some changes made to it over time. The two doors work with the rest of the features of the house. The stoops are integrated nicely.

Aye: Ovian, Lyons, Aforismo, Cregeau

APPLICATION NO. 4375-15. Elaine Cahill seeks to replace the wood deck rails and balusters with a vinyl railing system having square balusters at 292 Hartford Avenue.

Upon motion by Commissioner Lyons seconded by Commissioner Ovian and a poll of the Commission, it was voted to APPROVE the application as submitted.

Discussion

Commissioner Ovian stated that he is intrigued by the use of material that she is looking for there. It is up off the ground and relatively far view from the Cove itself makes it more forgivable than if right on the street. It looks like a nice application to the type of deck that she has.

Commissioner Lyons stated that it's minimal impact from the street and you can't see much from the Cove.

Aye: Ovian, Lyons, Aforismo, Cregeau

APPLICATION NO. 4376-15. Kathryn Johnson seeks to demolish the side walls of the front stairs and to install an aluminum railing system at 6 Railroad Place.

Upon motion by Commissioner Ovian seconded by Commissioner Cregeau and a poll of the Commission, it was voted to APPROVE the application with the following stipulation:

1. The railins shall be aluminum in a wrought iron look in the color black.

Discussion

Commissioner Ovian stated that the black wrought iron look is less imposing than other kinds of railings.

Aye: Ovian, Lyons, Aforismo, Cregeau

APPLICATION NO. 4377-15. The Town of Wethersfield seeks to amend Certificate of Appropriateness Number 4271-15 to change the walkway material from brick pavers to bituminous pavers at 222 Main Street.

Upon motion by Commissioner Ovian seconded by Commissioner Cregeau and a poll of the Commission, it was voted to APPROVE the application as submitted.

Discussion

Commissioner Ovian stated that it's a combination of necessity trying to meet codes. The materials are all present in the vicinity of the building.

Aye: Ovian, Lyons, Aforismo, Cregeau

MINUTES OF APRIL 28, 2015

Upon motion by Commissioner Ovian, seconded by Commissioner Lyons and a poll of the Commission, it was voted to APPROVE the minutes of the April 28, 2015 meeting.

Aye: Ovian, Lyons, Aforismo

OTHER BUSINESS

Public comments on general matters of the Historic District

Giuseppe Buononata, 15 Wethersfield, Avenue, discussed replacement windows with the Commission.

Report of the Historic District Coordinator

1. The first round of violations has been cleared up.
2. On Hubbard Place, there is one new violation with a fencing issue.
3. Kristin has asked the town attorney to interpret the state statute on solar panel installation in historic districts.

Correspondence

None.

ADJOURNMENT

Upon motion by Commissioner Cregeau, seconded by Commissioner Ovian and a poll of the Commission, it was voted to ADJOURN the meeting at 9:08 PM.

Aye: Ovian, Lyons, Aforismo, Cregeau

Respectfully Submitted

TOWN OF WETHERSFIELD
HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION

Chris Lyons
- Clerk Pro Tem-