

The Wethersfield Historic District Commission held a Public Hearing on May 26, 2015 at the Wethersfield Town Hall, Town Manager's Conference Room – First Floor, 505 Silas Deane Highway, Wethersfield, Connecticut.

Members Present: Robert Garrey, Chairperson
Douglas Ovian, Vice Chairperson
Mark Raymond
Chris Lyons
Daniel Bucknam, Alternate

Members Absent: John Aforismo, Alternate
Damian Cregeau, Alternate

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

Commissioner Garrey 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 May 14, 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. (Tabled at the May 12, 2015 meeting. The last date to act is June 9, 2015.)

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. The same rails were approved several houses down the street. Photos of houses with the proposed rail system already installed were submitted.

Commissioner Garrey 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. 4378-15. Hanmer Elementary School PTO seeks to install two (2) 72"x48" three door enclosed bulletin boards to the left of the front door at 50 Francis Street.

Caryn Doten, 61 Center Street appeared before the Commission. Photos were submitted. The two bulletin boards will be 72"x48" and will be located on each side of the front door. The brushed steel matches the framing around the windows and doors.

Commissioner Garrey 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. 4379-15. Wethersfield Board of Education seeks to install way finding and directional signage on the west side and northwest corner of Hanmer Elementary School at 50 Francis Street.

Applicant was not present.

APPLICATION NO. 4380-15. Mary Clare Quirk seeks to replace the existing wood garage doors with Clopay steel garage doors in the same design at 44 Robbinswood Drive.

Mary Clare Quirk, 44 Robbinswood Drive, appeared before the Commission. Photos were submitted. They will install Clopay steel flat panel doors in the color grey. They will re-use the original strap hardware.

Commissioner Garrey 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. 4381-15. Frank Deluca seeks to replace sixteen (16) windows with either fiberglass or wood aluminum clad windows at 17 Hubbard Place.

Frank Deluca, 17 Hubbard Place, and Al Vestro, DiGiorgi Roofing & Siding, 719 Silas Deane Highway, appeared before the Commission. There are actually 17 windows to be replaced. Photos of the existing windows were submitted. The existing windows are double-hung single panel white windows with aluminum storms. They would like to replace them with Marvin Fiberglass Infinity windows in the same size and design as existing. They would like full screens.

Commissioner Garrey 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. 4382-15. Nathan and Erin Walpole seek to install a solar panel system on the east and west elevations of the roof at 11 Middletown Avenue.

Nathan Walpole, 11 Middletown Avenue, and Luke Gardner, 118 Quinnipiac Avenue, North Haven, appeared before the Commission. There will be 16 panels on each side of the roof in a 4x4 pattern. Photos and specifications were submitted. A photo of the proposed electrical box was provided. The conduit will run with the current electric. There will be one emergency shutoff/disconnect panel. The inverters will be located beneath each panel. The panels will be raised 4 to 5" off of the roof. The roof has charcoal grey shingles.

Commissioner Garrey 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. 4383-15. Peter Hinman seeks to repair the front porch which shall include the reduction in width of the stairs and the installation of synthetic railings and hand rails at 31 State Street.

Peter Hinman, 31 State Street, appeared before the Commission. He would like to repair the front porch. Drawings were submitted. There is no existing rail. He would like a wood rail, but only on one side. He will be replacing the risers, like for like, in the same design, but with a shorter run. He would like to use a white PVC rail system with square posts and balusters, toe kick, and round ball cap.

Commissioner Garrey 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. 4384-15. Temple Beth Torah seeks to close off the stairs on the south elevation of the front porch with a railing to match the existing, construct a brick paver walkway from the stairs on the north elevation of the porch, and relocate the bench at the front of the property at 13 Main Street.

Barry Goldberg, 78 Highview Drive, Rocky Hill, appeared before the Commission. A plot plan and a sample of the brick were provided. Brick color is red. They have tried to repair the landing several times, but it needs to be replaced. They would like to close off the existing entrance and have people walk in through the alternate entrance and have a walkway. They will eventually match the railing to the front. There is a bench in concrete that is in the way, so they will go from the driveway and create a walkway. The building inspector will have to determine the width of the walkway.

Commissioner Garrey 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. 4385-15. William Liska seeks to construct a 6'x8' storage shed and replace the window on the garage at 21 Chesterfield Road.

William Liska, 21 Chesterfield Road, appeared before the Commission. He would like to construct a small shed in the back corner of his property. It is a corner lot. A plot plan was submitted. He has arbor vitae and shrubs for screening. It will be a wood shed with cedar shakes. The roof will match the house and the existing shed. The door faces the existing shed. He would like to replace the garage window with a cottage style SDL window to match existing Simonton window.

Commissioner Garrey 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. 4386-15. Melinda and James Robidoux seek to amend Certificate of Appropriateness Number 4350-15 to 1) change the color of the Cedar Impressions vinyl siding on the garage from herringbone to Light Maple, 2) change the style of the exterior lighting fixtures and 3) change the design of the garage doors from a carriage style to a sixteen (16) panel style at 263 Hartford Avenue.

Melinda and James Robidoux, 263 Hartford Avenue, appeared before the Commission. Photos were submitted. They changed the siding color from Herringbone to Light Maple so it would better match the original. The contractor installed plain white 16 panel garage doors instead of the originally planned carriage style doors. They would like to switch them eventually, but for now, they would like to keep the existing doors. The finish on the original lights was too shiny and the new lights are more to scale with lighting on other houses in the area.

Commissioner Garrey 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 Raymond seconded by Commissioner Ovia, and a poll of the Commission, it was voted to close the public hearing on all applications except Application #4379-15 and to open the public meeting.

Aye: Garrey, Ovia, Raymond, Lyons, Bucknam

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. (Tabled at the May 12, 2015 meeting. The last date to act is June 9, 2015.)

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

Discussion

Commissioner Ovia stated that his biggest concern was how the bottom rail looked. It looks good in the pictures.

Commissioner Garrey stated that the photos were helpful.

Aye: Garrey, Ovia, Lyons, Bucknam Abstain: Raymond

APPLICATION NO. 4378-15. Hanmer Elementary School PTO seeks to install two (2) 72"x48" three door enclosed bulletin boards to the left of the front door at 50 Francis Street.

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

Discussion

Commissioner Ovia stated that there is a functional reason for it. There's a huge overhang there so it is an appropriate place for them.

Commissioner Lyons stated that it will clean up the front of the school and get rid of the flyers.

Aye: Garrey, Ovia, Raymond, Lyons, Bucknam

APPLICATION NO. 4380-15. Mary Clare Quirk seeks to replace the existing wood garage doors with Clopay steel garage doors in the same design at 44 Robbinswood Drive.

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

1. The doors shall be Clopay steel doors as presented in the color grey with hardware to match the existing.

Discussion

Commissioner Ovia stated that it's hard to tell the texture of the replacement doors.

Commissioner Garrey stated that it's a successful replication of current doors.

Aye: Garrey, Ovia, Raymond, Lyons, Bucknam

APPLICATION NO. 4381-15. Frank Deluca seeks to replace sixteen (16) windows with either fiberglass or wood aluminum clad windows at 17 Hubbard Place.

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

1. The windows shall be replaced with Marvin Infinity Ultrex Fiberglass with a 1/1 light pattern in the color white to match the existing light patterns.

Discussion

Commissioner Ovia stated that the whole house isn't white so it won't look funny with the black screens.

Aye: Garrey, Ovia, Raymond, Lyons, Bucknam

APPLICATION NO. 4382-15. Nathan and Erin Walpole seek to install a solar panel system on the east and west elevations of the roof at 11 Middletown Avenue.

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

Discussion

Commissioner Ovia stated that he isn't sure that they should make a decision about this project before they have the meeting to discuss solar panels. This is a less difficult project because it is the same pattern on both sides. He does have concern over placement of panels on the fronts of buildings.

Commissioner Raymond stated that it's a clean look. He's excited to see smaller scale mechanicals.

Commissioner Garrey stated that you are getting a side view from the Green.

Commissioner Bucknam stated that he is inclined to table the application so they can have discussions.

Commissioner Lyons stated that each application is decided on a case by case basis. They have approved solar panel applications before, but this is the first application with full public view.

Aye: Garrey, Raymond, Lyons

Nay: Ovia, Bucknam

APPLICATION NO. 4383-15. Peter Hinman seeks to repair the front porch which shall include the reduction in width of the stairs and the installation of synthetic railings and hand rails at 31 State Street.

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

Discussion

Commissioner Ovian stated that the house has a lot of synthetic materials already.

Commissioner Garrey stated that the cap design is a preference thing.

Aye: Garrey, Ovian, Raymond, Lyons, Bucknam

APPLICATION NO. 4384-15. Temple Beth Torah seeks to close off the stairs on the south elevation of the front porch with a railing to match the existing, construct a brick paver walkway from the stairs on the north elevation of the porch, and relocate the bench at the front of the property at 13 Main Street.

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

Discussion

Commissioner Ovian stated that it surprises him that the whole walk is less expensive than repairing what is already there. There is already a lot going on there and they are adding a walk to the mix. He is hoping it will be a successful installation.

Commissioner Garrey stated that he appreciates Commissioner Ovian's concern and he hopes that he addressed the issue of a temporary structure. There may be zoning issues or other things they have to come back with. It preserves the flagstone surface as is and the very nice rail design. The paver sidewalk is minimal impact.

Aye: Garrey, Ovian, Raymond, Lyons, Bucknam

APPLICATION NO. 4385-15. William Liska seeks to construct a 6'x8' storage shed and replace the window on the garage at 21 Chesterfield Road.

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

Discussion

Commissioner Ovian stated that it's not an easy area. It's a corner lot and there is already a lot going on there. They are used to having a number of outbuildings on some of these properties. The plantings shroud what he has there.

Commissioner Garrey stated that he would be concerned if the sheds were of different design.

Commissioner Bucknam stated that it's a pretty small shed.

Aye: Garrey, Ovian, Raymond, Lyons, Bucknam

APPLICATION NO. 4386-15. Melinda and James Robidoux seek to amend Certificate of Appropriateness Number 4350-15 to 1) change the color of the Cedar Impressions vinyl siding on the garage from herringbone to Light Maple, 2) change the style of the exterior lighting fixtures and 3) change the design of the garage doors from a carriage style to a sixteen (16) panel style at 263 Hartford Avenue.

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

Discussion

Commissioner Garrey stated that he didn't think about the change in the siding colors. He didn't love the garage doors. He likes that she intends to paint them grey. The lights are fine.

Aye: Garrey, Ovian, Raymond, Lyons, Bucknam

MINUTES OF MAY 12, 2015

The meeting minutes of May 12, 2015 were left open until the next meeting.

CLERK PRO-TEM

Upon motion by Commissioner Ovian seconded by Commissioner Raymond and a poll of the Commission, it was voted to APPROVE the election of Commissioner Lyons as Clerk Pro Tem for the term of May 26, 2015 through July 30, 2015.

Aye: Garrey, Ovian, Raymond, Lyons, Bucknam

OTHER BUSINESS

Public comments on general matters of the Historic District

None.

Report of the Historic District Coordinator

1. The packets from the town attorney regarding solar panels were distributed. An agenda item will be added to the June 9 meeting for discussion by the Commission.
2. The Town Council has approved the budget and an additional three hours will be added to Kristin's schedule starting in July. She will keep the same office hours.

Correspondence

A letter was received from Kate Johnson, 6 Railroad Place, thanking the Commission for their service.

ADJOURNMENT

Upon motion by Commissioner Raymond, seconded by Commissioner Ovia and a poll of the Commission, it was voted to ADJOURN the meeting at 9:06 PM.

Aye: Garrey, Ovia, Raymond, Lyons, Bucknam

Respectfully Submitted

TOWN OF WETHERSFIELD
HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION

Chris Lyons
- Clerk -