

The Wethersfield Historic District Commission held a Public Hearing on November 24, 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, Clerk
Chris Lyons
Jennifer Wolf
Daniel Bucknam, Alternate
John Aforismo, Alternate

Members Absent: 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 Raymond read the Legal Notice as it appeared in the *Rare Reminder* on November 12, 2015.

APPLICATION NO. 4453-15. Solar City seeks to install a solar panel system consisting of nine (9) roof mounted solar panels and related mechanicals at 2 Kelley Avenue.

Anthony Cerra, Solar City, 714 Brook Street, Rocky Hill, appeared before the Commission. The layout of the panels was submitted. There will be nine panels mounted on the rear of the roof. The panels will be mounted 1½ to 2" off of the roof. The inverter will be located on the driveway side and mounted to the house. The A/C shutoff will next to the existing meter. There will be a conduit pipe on the outside of the siding. There will be a 4x4 white box on the roof behind the chimney. The conduit will be silver with reflective tape. The panels will use the sleek mount application where there is a black skirt on front of the panels so you can't see underneath them. The conduit will run down the side of the house, down the ridgeline and down to the inverter.

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. 4454-15. Solar City seeks to install a solar panel system consisting of nine (9) roof mounted solar panels and related mechanicals at 19 Willard Street.

Anthony Cerra, Solar City, 714 Brook Street, Rocky Hill, and Thomas Lefebvre, 19 Willard Street, appeared before the Commission. There will be nine solar panels mounted on the rear roof. If facing the house, the mechanicals will be located on the right side of the house. The inverter will be located right near the other mechanicals, right under the window. The conduit will come down to the left of the windows. The conduit will run underneath the eave, but it will not be flush with the house. Drawings 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. 4455-15. Kathleen Carpino seeks to install Harvey vinyl replacement windows in a 1/1 light pattern and wrap the window trim in aluminum at 28 Middletown Avenue.

Darren Fuller, Fuller Home Improvement, 1841 New London Turnpike, Glastonbury, appeared before the Commission. They would like to replace all 16 windows with Harvey Slimline vinyl windows with a 1/1 light pattern. The windows are currently 1/1 wood windows with storm windows. The storm windows will be removed. The bay window will be separate windows with a center post that will be wrapped. They will use ½ screens. They will wrap the windows to match the existing wood trim pattern with aluminum that Harvey provides to match its products.

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. 4456-15. Lisa Bowman seeks to install central air conditioning on the second story of the house which shall include wiring and conduit placed on the gable end of the home at 26 Foote Path Lane.

Lisa Bowman, 26 Foote Path Lane, appeared before the Commission. The unit has already been installed. They installed a split unit because there was already a unit downstairs. They installed a conduit cover that looks like a gutter. The compressor is behind a bush in the back. A photo was 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. 4457-15. Trinity Parish seeks to amend Certificate of Appropriateness #4439-15 to replace the copper K style gutters on the church hall/office with brown aluminum K style gutters and to replace the brown aluminum K style gutters on the main church south side with copper K style gutters at 300 Main Street.

Billye Logan, 318 Hartford Avenue, appeared before the Commission. They would like to replace the existing gutters with brown aluminum K style gutters on the north side of the parish hall. There is a copper gutter over the front porch and that will not be touched. There is a brown aluminum K style gutter in between the two gables which will be replaced with a copper gutter. On the south side, which is the office, there will be aluminum brown K style gutters against a brown fascia. Everything on the church will remain or become a copper gutter. The downspouts will be brown to match the K style aluminum gutters.

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 Wolf, seconded by Commissioner Ovia, and a poll of the Commission, it was voted to close the public hearing on all applications and to open the public meeting.

Aye: Garrey, Ovia, Raymond, Lyons, Wolf

APPLICATION NO. 4453-15. Solar City seeks to install a solar panel system consisting of nine (9) roof mounted solar panels and related mechanicals at 2 Kelley Avenue.

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

Discussion

Commissioner Ovian stated that he has always thought that the best place for solar panels is on the back of the house. When it's the back of the house, it's an area that's the home of gas grills and other kinds of things you see on the back of a house and you don't have the same kind of expectation as you would for the front of a house. He doesn't have a problem that it's visible from a public way. The façade as viewed from the front remains preserved. When it comes to mechanicals, it's always a compromise.

Commissioner Garrey stated that he concurs. Solar panels are relatively new to them. They've seen front installation, side installation, and a rear installation and now they have some experience with them, not saying that any are good or bad. It's very individual with respect to the application, its structure, surroundings, placement on the lot, etc. This doesn't have a big public exposure. Pictures from an actual installation would be nice to have.

Commissioner Raymond stated that his biggest concern is not knowing what materials they are looking at as far as mechanicals. The conduit discussion was very vague. If approved here, will it have to be approved in other areas that are more visible? He would like to see more detail.

Commissioner Lyons stated that an ideal installation is that symmetrical layout.

Aye: Garrey, Ovian, Lyons

Nay: Wolf

Abstain: Raymond

APPLICATION NO. 4454-15. Solar City seeks to install a solar panel system consisting of nine (9) roof mounted solar panels and related mechanicals at 19 Willard Street.

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

Discussion

Commissioner Ovian stated that he has more reservations about the line running down. The inverter is on the side and it's visible. One of the solutions he thought of was to bring the conduit down the back.

Commissioner Garrey stated that this is a rear installation with a symmetrical pattern. It has a wide eave to hide the conduit run. You expect to see mechanicals on the side of a house. They could theoretically bring everything inside, but it's more work. It's a small conduit but it's ideal if it could be painted or just without the reflective tape on it.

Commissioner Raymond stated that the conduit could come down the back side and run along the foundation.

Commissioner Wolf asked if they think it's worth holding off on this and having him talk to his contractor?

Aye: Garrey

Nay: Ovian, Raymond, Lyons, Wolf

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

Commissioner Garrey stated that if they are going to go into the roof, why don't they go into the wall? Ideally, you go through the interior wall.

Commissioner Ovian stated that it's clear that some members would like to see the conduit go down the back. If not, they need a better idea of what it's going to look like if it goes under the eave. The idea of reflective tape going through the eave is discomfoting.

Aye: Garrey, Ovian, Raymond, Lyons, Wolf

APPLICATION NO. 4455-15. Kathleen Carpino seeks to install Harvey vinyl replacement windows in a 1/1 light pattern and wrap the window trim in aluminum at 28 Middletown Avenue.

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

Discussion

Commissioner Ovian stated that one of the very few places where vinyl windows seem to work in the District are in houses of this vintage where windows are 1/1 without a light pattern. The Slimline is a little bit lower profile so it may more accurately reflect the look of the window. Wood windows of this era ironically don't have a lot of bevel to them.

Commissioner Garrey stated that this is a more middle class, four square, very unadorned home of that period. Some vinyl windows are better than others.

Commissioner Wolf stated that they can't dictate the quality of the windows that they choose, but in the past, they've encouraged them to look at other products when they apply or other solutions, but again the application, he came in with nothing, so the representation that they are going to get aluminum clad around it that matches ... maybe ... she would like to be sure that those match at least.

Aye: Garrey, Ovian, Lyons

Nay: Wolf, Raymond

APPLICATION NO. 4456-15. Lisa Bowman seeks to install central air conditioning on the second story of the house which shall include wiring and conduit placed on the gable end of the home at 26 Foote Path Lane.

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

Discussion

Commissioner Ovian stated that although this was done after the fact, they used the least intrusive way for the installation.

Commissioner Garrey stated that they used a standard way to mask the conduit.

Aye: Garrey, Ovian, Raymond, Lyons, Wolf

APPLICATION NO. 4457-15. Trinity Parish seeks to amend Certificate of Appropriateness #4439-15 to replace the copper K style gutters on the church hall/office with brown aluminum K style gutters and to replace the brown aluminum K style gutters on the main church south side with copper K style gutters at 300 Main Street.

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

Discussion

Commissioner Garrey stated that this is a magnificent building. It's important to keep the copper on the original building.

Commissioner Ovian stated that the custodians of the property have exceeded what the Commission could have hoped for.

Aye: Garrey, Ovian, Raymond, Lyons, Wolf

MINUTES OF OCTOBER 27, 2015

Upon motion by Commissioner Garrey, seconded by Commissioner Wolf and a poll of the Commission, it was voted to APPROVE the minutes of the October 27, 2015 meeting as submitted.

Aye: Garrey, Ovian, Wolf, Aforismo Abstain: Raymond

MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 10, 2015

Upon motion by Commissioner Raymond, seconded by Commissioner Ovian and a poll of the Commission, it was voted to APPROVE the minutes of the November 10, 2015 meeting as submitted.

Aye: Garrey, Ovian, Raymond, Lyons, Bucknam

OTHER BUSINESS

Public Comments on General Matters of the Historic District

None.

Report of the Historic District Coordinator

The installation of the Heritage Trail signs is moving along slowly. There is an issue with attaching the signs to the granite posts. The ribbon cutting is now planned for some time in the spring.

Correspondence

None.

ADJOURNMENT

Upon motion by Commissioner Wolf, seconded by Commissioner Raymond and a poll of the Commission, it was voted to ADJOURN the meeting at 9:07 PM.

Aye: Garrey, Ovian, Raymond, Lyons, Wolf, Bucknam, Aforismo

Respectfully Submitted

TOWN OF WETHERSFIELD
HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION

Mark Raymond
- Clerk -