

The Wethersfield Historic District Commission held a Public Hearing on January 11, 2011 at the Wethersfield Town Hall, Town Manager's Conference Room – First Floor, 505 Silas Deane Highway, Wethersfield, Connecticut.

Members Present: Robert Garrey, Chairperson
John Maycock, Vice Chairperson
Bette Botticello
Lisa Wurzer, Alternate

Members Absent: Gary McLeod, Clerk
Michael Rell
Susan Gillanders, Alternate
Mark Raymond, 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 Maycock, Clerk, read the Legal Notice as it appeared in the *Hartford Courant* on December 31, 2010.

APPLICATION NO. 3898-11. Debra Cohen seeking to install a stainless steel chimney cap at 73 Church Street.

Debra Cohen of 73 Church Street appeared before the Commission. She would like to install a stainless steel chimney cap on a single stack chimney.

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. 3899-11. James and Doris Stamos seeking to install a replacement front door at 504 Main Street.

Doris Stamos of 504 Main Street appeared before the Commission. The existing front door is a Victorian style door with two arched glass sets. She would like to replace the door with a solid wood, six panel batten door with traditional sandcast bronze 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. 3900-11. Town of Wetherfield of 505 Silas Deane Highway seeking to install gateway and way finding signage at various locations throughout the Historic District.

Peter Gillespie of the Wethersfield Planning Department appeared before the Commission. They are implementing a welcome and wayfinding signage program that is funded by the Preserve America Program in Washington to upgrade existing signage throughout the town. There are over a dozen locations throughout town with six different types welcome signs at the entrance of town, welcome signs at the entrance of the Historic District, wayfinding signs, hybrid gateway and wayfinding signs, and parking signs. The CT DOT has a federal standard that the signs must meet. Standards require that they be brown in color. They are painted aluminum signs with square posts. They are welded metal panel frames and they are set in concrete. The details on the sign are raised painted cast resin that are bolted to the sign panel (the onion, the word Wethersfield, 1634, and the five pointed stars). They are required to be a breakaway design. The signs are reflective with diamond grade reflectivity. Some signs are double posted and some are single posted. The size of each sign varies depending on the message content. They hope to have the signs installed in July.

Commissioner Garrey asked whether there was anyone wishing to speak in favor or in opposition to this application.

Paul Courchaine of 481 Main Street asked questions about the application.

Commissioner Garrey asked whether there was anyone else 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. 3901-11. Paula Rubinow seeking to amend application number 3880-10 to change the siding material from wood to HardiePlank cement board to match the existing 4" exposure at 271 Main Street.

The applicant did not attend the meeting.

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

Aye: Garrey, Maycock, Botticello, Wurzer

APPLICATION NO. 3898-11. Debra Cohen seeking to install a stainless steel chimney cap at 73 Church Street.

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

Discussion

Commissioner Maycock stated that this is pretty standard and they have been used successfully before in the District.

Aye: Garrey, Maycock, Botticello, Wurzer

APPLICATION NO. 3899-11. James and Doris Stamos seeking to install a replacement front door at 504 Main Street.

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

Discussion

Commissioner Maycock stated that this is a nice door and it will look better than what's there now.

Commissioner Garrey stated that this door works well for this house.

Aye: Garrey, Maycock, Botticello, Wurzer

APPLICATION NO. 3900-11. Town of Wetherfield of 505 Silas Deane Highway seeking to install gateway and way finding signage at various locations throughout the Historic District.

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

Discussion

Commissioner Maycock stated that he realizes that the Commission has to conform to outside mandates. He would prefer wood signs but he realizes that won't happen. He'd rather have all the signs consistent.

Commissioner Garrey stated that the first proposal was for composite material, but due to the mandates, it was changed to aluminum. The raised elements on the signs give them some character. The post design is nice. The maintenance issues on the existing signs have been difficult as they age.

Aye: Garrey, Maycock, Botticello, Wurzer

APPLICATION NO. 3901-11. Paula Rubinow seeking to amend application number 3880-10 to change the siding material from wood to HardiePlank cement board to match the existing 4" exposure at 271 Main Street.

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

Discussion

Commissioner Garrey stated that Hardie Plank has been used successfully in the District.

Commissioner Botticello stated that she has an issue the homeowner gaining approval for one material and completing the work with another material prior to approval.

Aye: Garrey, Maycock, Wurzer

ABSTAIN: Botticello

MINUTES OF DECEMBER 14, 2010

Upon motion by Commissioner Maycock, seconded by Commissioner Garrey and a poll of the Commission, it was voted to APPROVE the minutes of the December 14, 2010 meeting as submitted.

Aye: Garrey, Maycock, Botticello, Wurzer

2010 ANNUAL REPORT

Upon motion by Commissioner Botticello, seconded by Commissioner Maycock and a poll of the Commission, it was voted to APPROVE the 2010 Annual Report as submitted.

Aye: Garrey, Maycock, Botticello, Wurzer

OTHER BUSINESS

Public comments on general matters of the Historic District

None.

Report of the Historic District Coordinator

None.

Correspondence

None.

ADJOURNMENT

Upon motion by Commissioner Maycock, seconded by Commissioner Botticello and a poll of the Commission, it was voted to ADJOURN the meeting at 8:06 PM.

Aye: Garrey, Maycock, Botticello, Wurzer

Respectfully Submitted

TOWN OF WETHERSFIELD
HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION

John Maycock
Vice Chairperson and Clerk Pro Tem