

The Wethersfield Historic District Commission held a Public Hearing on January 26, 2010 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  
Gary McLeod, Clerk  
Michael Rell  
Susan O'Brien  
Bette Botticello, Alternate  
Lisa Wurzer, Alternate

Members Absent: Mark Raymond, Alternate

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

Commissioner Garrey called the meeting to order at 7:30PM, and read the opening comments. Commissioner McLeod, Clerk, read the Legal Notice as it appeared in the *Hartford Courant* on January 15, 2010.

**APPLICATION NO. 3779-10.** Bruce R. Daly seeking to install signage at 281 Main Street.

Applicant did not appear.

**APPLICATION NO. 3780-10.** Cactus Design LLC seeking to replace the picture window with two (2) double hung windows and winterize the three season porch on south side at 351 Hartford Avenue.

Gary Vivian of Cactus Design, 43 Old Pewter Lane, appeared before the Commission. On the 2<sup>nd</sup> story above three season porch, they would like to replace the picture window with two double-hung windows similar to the window next to the picture window which shall be wood true divided light. They would also like to winterize the three season porch.

For the porch, they would like to take out the existing wall and railing and put the new wall in the same plain that the railing is in. It will intersect the column bases right in the middle. They will then apply 1' x 2's to make it look like the railing. They will take the columns down and split them in half and apply them to a solid wall so everything will be on the same plain. This will have a similar look to existing porch except there will be no double-hung window on the side. They will frame in three casement windows in between each of the sets of posts (an additional two on the side and two in the front). They plan to use aluminum clad Eagle casement windows (the same as was used on the addition to the house). For the two windows on the 2<sup>nd</sup> story, they will be non-clad, all wood windows, double hung with triple track storms so that they better match the style of the house. The wood shutters will be slightly larger than existing because the new windows will be slightly larger than what is currently there.

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. 3781-10. Aspen Contracting, Inc.** seeking to replace the aluminum siding with vinyl siding at 58 Church Street.

Gary Markham of Aspen Contracting, 161 Mill Street, Berlin, appeared before the Commission. They would like to replace the existing 4" aluminum yellow siding with a Mastic Ovation vinyl siding in Harbor Gray color. The trim will be white. The windows and trim will be wrapped in white. The front porch is white vinyl and is staying as is. Baseboards will remain the same.

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

Robert N. Smart of 62 Church Street, Wethersfield, spoke in opposition of the application through written correspondence dated January 22, 2010.

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. 3774-10. J. Michaels Catering LLC** seeking to replace the existing signage with new signage at 222 Main Street. (Tabled from the January 12, 2010 meeting. The last date to act is January 26, 2010.)

Lucas Kyriakos of 222 Main Street appeared before the Commission. The new signs are the same exact signs, he just flipped them over. He used a Duration exterior paint and lettered the sign in gold leaf. Pre-existing signs were carved, but these are not. He would like to leave the signs as is.

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 O'Brien seconded by Commissioner Maycock, and a poll of the commission, it was voted to close the public hearing on all applications except number 3779-10 which shall be continued and remain open and open the public meeting on all applications except number 3779-10.

Aye: Garrey, Maycock, McLeod, Rell, O'Brien

**APPLICATION NO. 3780-10.** Cactus Design LLC seeking to replace the picture window with two (2) double hung windows and winterize the three season porch on south side at 351 Hartford Avenue.

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

**Discussion**

Commissioner O'Brien stated that this is a beautiful design. The mix of preservation and new material is almost perfection. It's an amazing house and it's very hard to improve on perfection. This change will enhance the beauty of this residence.

Commissioner Garrey agrees and feels that the one thing that stands out on the house is that the existing picture window doesn't fit.

Aye: Garrey, Maycock, McLeod, Rell, O'Brien

**APPLICATION NO. 3781-10.** Aspen Contracting, Inc. seeking to replace the aluminum siding with vinyl siding at 58 Church Street.

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

**Discussion**

Commissioner O'Brien stated that Aspen Contracting did not provide enough information for the Commission to make a decision. They should be using a higher quality product.

Commissioner McLeod stated that the company should have presented this much better than what they did. There is not enough information for the Commission to vote on the application.

Commissioner Maycock stated that this is the same product that Aspen has used on all of the houses they've worked on in the District.

Commissioner Rell stated that there are at least a dozen Hubbard houses in that area. It looks like the homeowner has no intention of bringing the house back to that period style. Today's presentation by the contractor was lacking. He feels that the homeowner and another representative from Aspen should come before the Commission and re-present the application.

Aye: Garrey, Maycock, McLeod, Rell, O'Brien

**APPLICATION NO. 3774-10.** J. Michaels Catering LLC seeking to replace the existing signage with new signage at 222 Main Street. (Tabled from the January 12, 2010 meeting. The last date to act is January 26, 2010.)

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

### **Discussion**

Commissioner Maycock stated that he has heard lots of discussion about the signs. He goes by the establishment daily and he likes what has been done with the restaurant. The signs are fine and he has nothing against them. They are appropriate for the building. We may not like the name, but we don't regulate that.

Commissioner Garrey stated that he personally hates the signs/name. The signs are lettered poorly, but maybe they are going for a chalkboard look. The previous signs were beautiful carved signs and now the signs are rustic looking.

Commissioner McLeod stated that J. Michaels sign was gold and carved in block lettering. This establishment is right in the middle of Old Main Street and the J. Michaels lettering gave it the look of distinction. It was a prominent sign that fit well with that particular building. He could have done a better job with the lettering. It is very amateurish. It doesn't do that building any justice. He should try painting the signs again.

Commissioner O'Brien stated that even though this is an antique building that was restored magnificently, we aren't attempting to have a "Williamsburg". If we were, every building would have the same sign. There is a neon sign that the Commission approved across the street. We use signage somewhat differently than the restoration of an antique structure. The size of the signs is what needed to be regulated from an HDC perspective. Do we and should we regulate the lettering of the signs? She is opposed to applicants who flagrantly disregard the rules and in this case, she truly understands the mistake. This was subtle enough for a new business owner to not quite understand the process.

Commissioner Rell stated that as far as Commission members hearing comments from public, only one person actually came in front of the Commission to speak in opposition of the signs. This is a business owner and he took over the place in the worst economic times since the 1920s and he has done it successfully. In trying to save some money, he did the signs himself. He wasn't aware that he had to come before the Commission to get approval for the changes. His only problem is that the name is difficult to overcome.

Commissioner Wurzer stated that she thinks we should approve this application. It's the name that everyone has a problem with, not the signs themselves.

Aye: Garrey, Maycock, Rell, O'Brien      Nay: McLeod

**MINUTES OF JANUARY 12, 2010**

Upon motion by Commissioner Maycock, seconded by Commissioner O'Brien and a poll of the Commission, the minutes of the January 12, 2010 meeting were approved without objection.

Aye: Garrey, Maycock, McLeod, Rell, O'Brien

**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 McLeod, seconded by Commissioner Maycock and a poll of the Commission, it was voted to ADJOURN the meeting at 8:30 PM.

Aye: Garrey, Maycock, McLeod, Rell, O'Brien

Respectfully Submitted  
TOWN OF WETHERSFIELD  
HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION

Gary McLeod  
Clerk