

The Wethersfield Historic District Commission held a Public Hearing on November 10, 2009 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
Susan O'Brien
Michael Rell
Bette Botticello, 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 October 30, 2009.

APPLICATION NO. 3755-09. Steve Czerwinski, Inc. seeking to install Cedar Impressions siding at 323 Garden Street.

The applicant has requested that the application be tabled and heard at the next scheduled meeting as the representative is unable to attend this meeting.

APPLICATION NO. 3756-09. Aspen Contracting seeking to replace the aluminum siding with vinyl siding at 33 Chesterfield Road.

Liz Easley of 21 Howard Street, Enfield and James McElroy of Aspen Contracting, 161 Mill Street, Berlin appeared before the commission. The house is currently vinyl sided with a 2½" exposure. They would like to replace with 4" vinyl siding in Silver Gray. The house is currently white. The brick will not be touched. Corner boards will match the siding and the trim will be rewrapped with white aluminum wrap. Trim, eaves, fascia boards, gutters and downspouts will match existing.

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. 3757-09. Aspen Contracting seeking to replace the aluminum siding with vinyl siding at 176 Hartford Avenue.

B.J. Shalas of Aspen Contracting, 161 Mill Street, Berlin, and Vinnie Giarvatana of 176 Hartford Avenue appeared before the commission. They would like to replace the 4" aluminum siding in white with 4" vinyl siding in Scottish Thistle color. Corner boards will match the siding. The trim will be rewrapped in white aluminum. The peak will be a 5" vinyl hung vertically in the Scottish Thistle color. Awnings and shutters will be detached and re-set. The shutters have been painted black. Gutters will be the same.

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. 3758-09. Ernie Burby seeking to replace the siding on the front façade at 159 Middletown Avenue.

Ernie and Gina Burby of 159 Middletown Avenue appeared before the commission. Mr. Burby would like to apply stone to the entire front door enclosure using New England field stone and Noble Hill stone. He is going to do a mosaic look with tight joints. He will stone 5' up under the windows and the front façade up to the sill. There will be a 1" reveal. The front stoop will be done with the same material with matching risers. The awning will remain the same. The existing siding will remain the same. The shutters will remain the same. The corners will be all stone. He will still have aluminum corner boards that will be wrapped and will be the same color as the siding.

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. 3759-09. John and Eileen Sheehan seeking to install replacement windows at 12 Wells Road.

John and Eileen Sheehan of 12 Wells Road appeared before the Commission. This house is part of the Williamsburg Complex. They will use Champion vinyl replacement windows in brown six over six with grids between the glass. They currently have brown aluminum windows with snap-in grids. These Champion windows have been approved for this complex in the past. They will be replacing four windows and the slider on the deck. The Condo Association has approved this request.

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. 3760-09. Uccello Development, LLC seeking to reconstruct a 20'x20' two (2) car garage at 7 River Road.

Nick Uccello of Uccello Development, 101 Hammermill Road, Rocky Hill and Jason Ahintowicz of 7 River Road, appeared before the commission. They are proposing to rebuild a two car garage that burned down 1½ months ago. They are going to re-use the existing 20' x 20' slab, which is slightly undersized for a two car garage. Roof pitch will match the previous 7 pitch. There is an 18' height maximum. They will adjust the roof pitch as needed to meet the zoning requirements. There will be a carriage style door. It is an Overhead Door steel garage door with wood grain and composite strips that are applied. The siding will be wood clapboard with 4" exposure. The windows will be 6 over 1 Brosco True Divide Light wood windows to match existing windows. The Frieze board will be a 5/4 x 8 in Azek. The corner boards and trim will be wood. The side door will be a 9 over 2 fiberglass Therma-Tru door with fixed grills inside and out. The gutters will be aluminum K style gutters to match the house. The roof shingles will be asphalt Timberline in the color Hickory.

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. 3761-09. Town of Wethersfield seeking to install a gas canopy with lighting at 100 Marsh Street.

Mike Turner, Director of Public Works, 505 Silas Deane Highway, Wethersfield appeared before the commission. Twin gas pump islands were installed in 2000 to replace underground tanks. Pumps are used by police, fire, and public works vehicles. They planned for the canopy in 2000 but did not have enough money at the time. The capital project for this has now been funded. They are proposing a canopy large enough to cover both islands. Plans have been submitted to the Building Department. There is a similar canopy at Mercury Fuel at the corner of Jordan Lane. There will be four 6' steel columns and a plain white vanilla fascia. There is a 14' clearance for the trucks. There will be recessed lighting. They would like to put a sticker with the town seal on the canopy, but it is not a requirement. The outside perimeter of the facility is 35' x 64' with 15' of deck clearance. Overall height would be 18' to the top.

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 application number 3755-09 and open the public meeting.

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

APPLICATION NO. 3755-09. Steve Czerwinski, Inc. seeking to install Cedar Impressions siding at 323 Garden Street.

This will be tabled until the next meeting since the owner is sick and unable to attend this meeting.

APPLICATION NO. 3756-09. Aspen Contracting seeking to replace the aluminum siding with vinyl siding at 33 Chesterfield Road.

Upon motion by Commissioner Maycock, seconded by Commissioner Garrey and a poll of the commission, it was voted to APPROVE the application with the following stipulations:

1. The siding shall be 4" vinyl Mastic in the color Silver Grey.
2. All trim siding shall match existing.

Discussion

Commissioner Maycock stated this is vinyl to vinyl and they don't make the reveal any more, so it's pretty cut and dried. Commissioner O'Brien feels they should have upgraded the material.

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

APPLICATION NO. 3757-09. Aspen Contracting seeking to replace the aluminum siding with vinyl siding at 176 Hartford Avenue.

Upon motion by Commissioner Maycock, seconded by Commissioner O'Brien and a poll of the commission, it was voted to APPROVE the application with the following stipulations:

1. The siding shall be 4" vinyl Mastic in the color Scottish Thistle.
2. There shall be 5" vertical vinyl in the front gable to match the approved color.
3. All trim and window wrap shall match the existing.

Discussion

Commissioner Maycock stated that it is aluminum to vinyl with pretty much the only change being the color. Commissioner O'Brien stated that this is an upgrade in her opinion. Commissioner Garrey stated that Aspen has done several properties successfully.

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

APPLICATION NO. 3758-09. Ernie Burby seeking to replace the siding on the front façade at 159 Middletown Avenue.

Upon motion by Commissioner Maycock, seconded by Commissioner O'Brien and a poll of the commission, it was voted to APPROVE the application with the following stipulations:

1. The cap shall be 2" stone pieces in the same color as the stone façade with metal wrap for flashing.
2. The corners shall be stone with the aluminum abutting.

Discussion

Commissioner Maycock stated that it is a nice addition to the house. It will take a lot of work, but it will look good. Commissioner Garrey stated that it is nice to see the real stone being used instead of concrete.

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

APPLICATION NO. 3759-09. John and Eileen Sheehan seeking to install replacement windows at 12 Wells Road.

Upon motion by Commissioner Maycock, seconded by Commissioner Rell and a poll of the commission, it was voted to APPROVE the application with the following stipulation:

1. There shall be four (4) Champion vinyl windows in bronze with a 6/6 light pattern to match the existing.

Discussion

Commissioner Maycock stated that the commission has already approved those windows for other units in that complex and it's nice to keep them all the same.

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

APPLICATION NO. 3760-09. Uccello Development, LLC seeking to reconstruct a 20'x20' two (2) car garage at 7 River Road.

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 Maycock stated this is a very nice application and a very nice building. He liked seeing the wood being used. Commissioner Garrey stated that it definitely reads like the building that burned and complements the house well and it has nice doors. Commissioner O'Brien concurs with Commissioner Maycock and Commissioner Garrey.

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

APPLICATION NO. 3761-09. Town of Wethersfield seeking to install a gas canopy with lighting at 100 Marsh Street.

Upon motion by Commissioner Maycock, seconded by Commissioner O'Brien and a poll of the commission, it was voted to APPROVE the application with the following stipulations:

1. The overall height shall not exceed 18'.
2. The town emblem may be applied to the canopy fascia.

Discussion

Commissioner O'Brien stated it's has very minimal impact and it's necessary for what is needed for the gas pumps and diesel pumps. People driving by it really won't be able to see much. Commissioner Garrey agrees.

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

MINUTES OF OCTOBER 27, 2009

Upon motion by commissioner Maycock, seconded by commissioner McLeod and a poll of the commission, the minutes of the October 13, 2009 meeting were approved without objection.

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

OTHER BUSINESS

Public comments on general matters of the Historic District

Colleen Sheridan, 31 State Street, appeared before the commission. She stated that she moved to Wethersfield a year ago. She chose to move to the district, live here, and pay more because of the historic nature of it and the Commission does a good job of monitoring things. However, a few things have gone on recently that have distressed her:

1. House on Meggat Park – maybe if the Commission sent out a yearly letter in the spring on what can and can't be done in the district, it might be useful in avoiding problems like this in the future.
2. She knows the Commission doesn't monitor color, but perhaps they should consider changing the bylaws because there is now a pumpkin color house on Hartford Avenue.
3. The Lucky Lou's sign is quite possibly the most hideous sign she has seen in her life on a historic building. There should be sign specifications that the tenant has to follow. She feels it is inappropriate.

Commissioner Garrey stated that the signs for J. Michael's Tavern were approved and the signs are the same size and material, but just a name change so he doesn't know if they have any jurisdiction over it because they were the same size just not the same name. The Commission is checking into this.

The Connecticut State Statute that the Commission was established under does not regulate paint color. There are other types of Historic Districts in the country that do regulate paint color. The commission can regulate color of an artificial material like siding and roofing materials. Commissioner O'Brien tried to change this when she was chairperson, but there is too much precedence and it will not/cannot be changed.

As far as the project on Meggat Park, Commissioner Maycock stated that he doesn't understand why Aspen didn't come before the commission for this project since they've come before the commission on other projects. The project has been stopped. He's not sure if that was an Aspen issue or an owner issue.

Report of the Historic District Coordinator

None.

Correspondence

None.

ADJOURNMENT

Upon motion by Commissioner Rell, seconded by commissioner Maycock and a poll of the commission, it was unanimously voted to ADJOURN the meeting at 8:21 PM.

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

Respectfully Submitted
TOWN OF WETHERSFIELD
HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION

Gary McLeod
Clerk