

The Wethersfield Historic District Commission held a Public Hearing on September 9, 2014 at the Wethersfield Town Hall, Town Manager's Conference Room – First Floor, 505 Silas Deane Highway, Wethersfield, Connecticut.

Members Present: Robert Garrey, Chairperson  
Douglas Ovia, Vice Chairperson  
Mark Raymond, Clerk  
John Aforismo, Alternate  
Lisa Wurzer, Alternate

Members Absent: John Maycock  
Chris Lyons  
Damien 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 August 28, 2014.

**APPLICATION NO. 4295-14.** Sean Fournier seeks to replace the existing aluminum siding on the garage with vinyl siding at 13 River Road. (Tabled at the August 26, 2014 meeting. The last date to act is September 23, 2014.)

Applicant not present.

**APPLICATION NO. 4298-14.** Peter Benson seeks to install an 8'x3' carved wood sign on the front of the building at 275 Main Street.

Peter Benson, 31 Middletown Avenue, appeared before the Commission. Photos were submitted. The new sign will be carved wood, black with gold leaf lettering. In between the two windows there are two rectangular spaces. The wood sign will hang in the bottom, larger rectangle. They will retain the existing American Legion sign above the entrance door. There will be two gooseneck lamps above the sign in the top rectangle. They will be removing the framed box that is on the building and if there is no tongue and groove siding underneath the box, he will match it to the building.

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. 4299-14.** Jane Amoruso seeks to install 4' scalloped wood picket fencing and 6' solid panel wood facing with gates, having a footprint of approximately 20'x25'x16' in the rear yard at 30 Main Street.

Michael Sipala, Contractor, 30 Main Street, appeared before the Commission. Photos were submitted. They would like to install a fence on side of the house where there is a small existing fence. They will remove the existing fence. The new fence will be on two sides 16' long x 25' length and 6' high. The fence will be a 5' solid panel style with a 1' classic Victorian topper. The back side will be a 4' scalloped fence. There will be a gate on the front side with plain black hardware. The gate on the back will be custom made to match the fence. The fence will be red cedar and it will not be stained.

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. 4300-14.** Kruzytof Jankowski seeks to construct a second story addition approximately 43'x26', construct a porch spanning the front of the house, and to replace the siding, windows, and doors at 191 Middletown Avenue.

Kruzytof Jankowski, 191 Middletown Avenue, appeared before the Commission. Photos and samples were provided. They would like to construct a second story addition. There will be no additional foundation and they are working on the existing footprint of the house. They will use Harvey Tribute windows with a 6/6 light pattern. The existing windows are aluminum sliding windows. The picture window will now be a triple window. The two shorter windows will be a single 6/6 and a double hung window. The J channel will be white and there will be 5" corner boards in white vinyl. The trim around the windows will be white. They will use 4" Mastic vinyl siding in the color Timberstone. The fish scale siding on the peak will be in the color Quiet Willow. The will be 18" of stone around the door. The stones used will be Southern LedgeStone Bucks County. They will transition directly from stone to siding using a J channel, which will be covered. They will install a new Therma-Tru Fiber Classic fiberglass door as submitted, which will be stained in Dark Cherry to match the deck. It will have a silver inlay. The column design on the porch will be 4" square plain white. There will be five composite columns. They plan on doing railings on the steps. They will be black composite square balusters with a toe kick as shown. The porch is stained pressure treated wood. The porch will have boxed wood lattice. The chimney brick will match existing and they will just bring the same design straight up. The existing side windows will be changed. There will be two six light windows on the north side. They will add a six panel fiberglass door to the side. They will relocate one window and replace another with the door. There will be no visible vents on the peaks. They will use a standard black coach light and recessed lights on the porch. The gutters will be standard white K-style.

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

Jody Farnham, 195 Middletown Avenue, spoke in favor of 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. 4301-14**. David and Margaret Aparo seek to replace four (4) basement windows at 17 Willard Street

Applicant not present.

**APPLICATION NO. 4302-14**. Maria Sipala seeks to retain the installation of fencing consisting of a 10' section of 6' wood stockade fencing with a transition panel at 36 Marsh Street.

Maria Sipala, 36 Marsh Street, and William Philbrick, 642 Maple Street, appeared before the Commission. Photos were submitted. The fence has already been installed. They replaced a section of picket fence with wood stockade fence. The fence was installed to prevent neighbors from parking on the lawn. Engineering has recommended that the fence be 10' away from the public sidewalk.

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. 4303-14**. Rich and Meher Shulman seek to install a metal chimney cap painted black at 40 Oldham Road.

Rich Shulman, 40 Oldham Road, appeared before the Commission. They have a two flue chimney and they would like to install a single metal chimney cap painted black as submitted to cover the two flues.

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 Ovan seconded by Commissioner Raymond, and a poll of the Commission, it was voted to close the public hearing on all applications, except Application #4295-14 and 4301-14, and to open the public meeting.

Aye: Garrey, Ovan, Raymond, Wurzer, Aforismo

**APPLICATION NO. 4298-14.** Peter Benson seeks to install an 8'x3' carved wood sign on the front of the building at 275 Main 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 Garrey stated that it's a beautiful sign. It's well situated to the building façade.

Commissioner Ovia stated that based on the efforts so far and the proposal they heard tonight, they are lucky that a Wethersfield home grown business and family has elected to act as a preservationist to that building for the benefit of their own business and for the non-profit group that has had it all of these years.

Aye: Garrey, Ovia, Raymond, Wurzer, Aforismo

**APPLICATION NO. 4299-14.** Jane Amoruso seeks to install 4' scalloped wood picket fencing and 6' solid panel wood facing with gates, having a footprint of approximately 20'x25'x16' in the rear yard at 30 Main Street.

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

**Discussion**

Commissioner Ovia stated that he asked about the distance from the property line for maintenance issues, but they have plenty of room. The fence that they proposed has been installed successfully. It will be minimal impact on the neighborhood but a nice impact.

Aye: Garrey, Ovia, Raymond, Wurzer, Aforismo

**APPLICATION NO. 4300-14.** Kruzytof Jankowski seeks to construct a second story addition approximately 43'x26', construct a porch spanning the front of the house, and to replace the siding, windows, and doors at 191 Middletown Avenue.

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

1. The siding shall be Mastic rolled vinyl siding with a 4" reveal in the color Timber Stone.
2. The fish scale siding on the gable shall be Mastic vinyl in the color Quiet Willow.
3. The windows shall be Harvey Tribute SDL in the color white with a 6/6 light pattern.
4. The front door shall be a Therma Tru fiberglass door with 2 lights and 2 panels with a silver inlay.
5. The stone shall be installed approximately 18" to each side of the front door and shall be Southern Ledge Stone cultured stone in Bucks County blend.
6. The corner boards shall be white vinyl with a 4½" reveal.
7. The trim shall be white with a 3 ½" reveal.
8. There shall be 5 columns on the front porch which shall be 4" square flat and constructed of a composite material.
9. The porch and stair railings shall be constructed of composite material in the color Black with a square baluster and toe kick.
10. The front porch stairs and decking shall be constructed of pressure treated wood. The skirting on the porch shall be constructed of boxed wood lattice.
11. The chimney shall match the existing in material and design.
12. The north elevation side entry shall have a 6 panel fiberglass door.
13. The north elevation door and front door shall have a standard coach light installed to the right of each door. The porch shall also include recessed lighting as presented.
14. The gutters shall be white aluminum "K" style.

### **Discussion**

Commissioner Ovian stated that since the house is aluminum sided, normally he would not support rolled vinyl siding because it doesn't replicate the look of the aluminum or other stiffer materials, however, since this house is going to double in size, replicating the look of the existing is beside the point. Part of why he can support it is that the porch is cutting the site line. There is a lot of rolled siding already in the District and on Middletown Avenue so he thinks it will blend in. It's going to be like a new house in the District. If this were a brand new house from brand new construction, it probably wouldn't pass in its current form. Because it is a rebuild of an existing home and there are certain restrictions inherent in that, there are certain allowances that can be made that make this a supportable project and one that we all hope will be very successful. It is also an interesting use of the synthetic railings if they end up using them.

Commissioner Garrey stated that it's a very radical change. It's practically new construction. The house doesn't have any decorative elements to the windows. It's aluminum sided. What they are proposing is a very nice design of a new home. We're not losing anything with respect to any architectural detail on the existing structure. He has no issues. The porch is a critical element in the design to soften other features of the house.

Aye: Garrey, Ovian, Raymond, Wurzer, Aforismo

**APPLICATION NO. 4302-14.** Maria Sipala seeks to retain the installation of fencing consisting of a 10' section of 6' wood stockade fencing with a transition panel at 36 Marsh Street.

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

1. The fencing along the property line shall consist of one panel of 6' wood stockade fencing extending beyond the junction of stockade fencing and decorative 4' scalloped fencing with the addition of the existing transition panel attached to extend just past the tree.

### **Discussion**

Commissioner Ovia stated that when you're walking or driving down Marsh Street, anything that's forward of that tree is going to be unattractive and block massing-wise an important gateway to Old Wethersfield.

Commissioner Garrey stated that there is an extremely wide snow shelf. If you take the transition piece out, you're further from the sidewalk, but then you lose the transition. If you bring the transition back another fence length, it's almost like you haven't added any fence or mitigated the issue. You don't see the fence in the site line because of the distance of the fence from the street in this particular location.

Commissioner Raymond stated that if there had to be some sort of fence, he would want to see something there like the decorative fence coming forward. The massing of a wall that juts out just doesn't look like it belongs there. Maybe we table it to let the homeowner come back with other options?

Commissioner Wurzer stated that she agrees with Commissioner Raymond. Ideally, if you are going to put a fence there, you should match the decorative fence there instead of the stockade.

Aye: Garrey, Ovia, Maycock, Lyons, Aforismo

**APPLICATION NO. 4303-14.** Rich and Meher Shulman seek to install a metal chimney cap painted black at 40 Oldham Road.

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

### **Discussion**

Commissioner Ovia stated that the black tends to be one which works well in the District lately.

Commissioner Wurzer stated that it's nice to see a homeowner come forward and ask for advice.

Aye: Garrey, Ovia, Maycock, Lyons, Aforismo

**MINUTES OF AUGUST 26, 2014**

Upon motion by Commissioner Garrey, seconded by Commissioner Ovian and a poll of the Commission, it was voted to APPROVE the minutes of the August 26, 2014 meeting as submitted.

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

**OTHER BUSINESS**

**Public comments on general matters of the Historic District**

None.

**Report of the Historic District Coordinator**

None.

**Correspondence**

A letter dated September 2, 2014, from town attorney, John Bradley, was read into the record.

**ADJOURNMENT**

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

Aye: Garrey, Ovian, Raymond, Wurzer, Aforismo

Respectfully Submitted

TOWN OF WETHERSFIELD  
HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION

Mark Raymond  
-Clerk Pro Tem -