

The Wethersfield Historic District Commission held a Public Hearing on November 25, 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 Ovian, Vice Chairperson (Arrived at 7:35)
Chris Lyons
Mark Raymond
John Aforismo, Alternate
Damian Cregeau, Alternate

Members Absent: John Maycock, Clerk
Lisa Wurzer, 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 Garrey, read the Legal Notice as it appeared in the *Rare Reminder* on November 13, 2014.

APPLICATION NO. 4328-14. Ellen and Lewis Eastwood seek to 1) replace the existing siding with Certainteed Cedar Impressions vinyl siding in the color sterling grey with white trim on the front and sides of the house; 2) replace the existing siding on the rear of the house with Certainteed Monogram vinyl siding; 3) replace twelve (12) windows with Marvin Integrity Ultrex fiberglass windows; 4) replace two (2) garage doors with Clopay Classic Collection steel doors; and 5) replace the shutters with black shutters at 14 Garden Street. (Tabled at the November 11, 2014 meeting. The last date to act is December 9, 2014.)

Ellen and Lewis Eastwood, 14 Garden Street, appeared before the Commission. They will keep the wood around the archway on the garage doors. They have proposed a new garage door. A photo was submitted. It is a CloPay Gallery door. It is white in color with a beaded panel. It is carriage style. The corner boards will be white.

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. 4330-14. Percon Inc seeks to retain the demolition of the existing wood deck and construct a new 12'x12' wood deck with an attached 5'x3' stairway at 15 Avalon Place.

Paul Randazzo, 467 Griswold Street, Glastonbury, appeared before the Commission. They removed the deck because the deck was rotting. The existing deck was 1' into the side yard. He has gone to the Zoning Board of Appeals to obtain a variance, which was approved. They would like to replace the deck in the same footprint. There will be pressure treated stairs with a white Azek riser. The rest of the deck will be pressure treated wood. A sample of the railings was provided. They are open to the design of the spindles. There will be a corner post and a cap to code. The skirting around the deck will be pressure treated wood lattice.

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. 4331-14. James Memmott seeks to replace the existing 3-tab asphalt roofing shingles on the north dormer with Owens Corning Devonshire roofing shingles in the color Tudor at 14 Dorchester Road.

James Memmott, 14 Dorchester Road, appeared before the Commission. Photos were submitted. They want to re-shingle the rear dormer with a shed roof. He can't find a 3-tab shingle to match the existing. He found a 5-tab shingle (sample provided). It is an Owens Corning Devonshire shingle in the color Tudor.

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. 4332-14. Nancy Jezowski seeks to replace the existing wood garage door with a steel garage door at 14 Old Pewter Lane.

Nancy Jezowski, 14 Old Pewter Lane, and John Jezowski, 15 Robbinswood Drive, appeared before the Commission. They would like to replace the garage door with a steel faced plain door with hardware similar to the existing door. The homeowner prefers the contemporary style door.

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

Marc Gomez, 37 Old Pewter Lane, 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. 4333-14. Tom and Erin Kennedy seek to install a 48" black aluminum fence around the perimeter of an in ground pool and install mechanicals for the pool screened by arborvitaes at 107 Garden Street.

Tom Kennedy, 107 Garden Street, appeared before the Commission. Photos of the mechanicals were submitted and will be screened with evergreens. A plot plan and specs on the fence were submitted. They would like to add a fence with two gates. The gates will match the fence, which is the Home Series in black. They would like the fence to be 48" in height, but if code requires 54" height, the owner is okay with that.

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. 4334-14. John Jakubowski and Megan Kirk seek to install a carved business sign to fit within the gable end of the portico with dimensions of 10¼" x 49" x 84¼" at 221 Main Street.

John Jakubowski and Megan Kirk, 221 Main Street, appeared before the Commission. They would like to replace the existing sign with a new sign. It will have the same dimensions as the existing sign but the text will be Old Wethersfield Country Store. The sign will be 10¼" x 49" x 84¼". It will be a gold leaf color. Photos and drawings were submitted. It is a wood sign with a resin film over it. The existing lighting over the sign will be retained.

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. 4335-14. Allan Wong seeks to install a stone sign with carved English and Chinese writing and to install a wood fence with a chain link gate at 188 Broad Street.

Allan Wong, 188 Broad Street, appeared before the Commission. He would like to add a gate between 168 and 174 Broad Street. The gate would go in between the two pine trees between the houses on the edge of his property. The gate will be approximately 17' in length (two 8½' pieces) and it will be a 3 bar steel gate. He would also like to install a 6' wood stockade fence on each side of the gate – the north side would be approximately 21' in length and the south side would be approximately 23' feet in length. The fence will stop at the existing arborvitaes on the south side and an existing fence on the north side. The good side of the fencing will face the neighbors. There will be no caps. The posts will be behind the fence. He would like to install a sign on the property line on the south side near the gate. The sign is a 5' tall, grey granite rectangular slab that is 2' wide. It has red lettering in English and Chinese.

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

Judy Keane, 126 Broad Street, asked questions about the application and she is in favor of anything that will help the property look more like a farm.

Marc Gomez, 37 Old Pewter Lane, made comments about the access road involved in 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.

Upon motion by Commissioner Raymond seconded by Commissioner Ovian, 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, Ovian, Raymond, Lyons, Aforismo

APPLICATION NO. 4328-14. Ellen and Lewis Eastwood seek to 1) replace the existing siding with Certainteed Cedar Impressions vinyl siding in the color sterling grey with white trim on the front and sides of the house; 2) replace the existing siding on the rear of the house with Certainteed Monogram vinyl siding; 3) replace twelve (12) windows with Marvin Integrity Ultrex fiberglass windows; 4) replace two (2) garage doors with Clopay Classic Collection steel doors; and 5) replace the shutters with black shutters at 14 Garden Street. (Tabled at the November 11, 2014 meeting. The last date to act is December 9, 2014.)

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

1. The wood siding on the façade of the garage shall be retained with an arch design.

Discussion

Commissioner Ovian stated that he looked at the property several times. He thinks that the request to come back with the wood arches retained is a great step in the right direction. In terms of the siding, he thinks that the idea that he put forth last time that it's a safer decision to stay with the existing look of the building and have stiff vinyl siding with doors that look the same, which is why he is hesitant to have flat panel doors that have bead board on them versus just flat panel doors that replicate the look of the existing. The biggest concern about this house is that it's relatively close to the street and the Green and the whole notion of the success of the synthetic material is that it has to fool the eye. He thinks that the synthetic material that would best fool the eye here is a 4" stiff vinyl siding that is consistent with the kind of Colonial shutters that are going to be on there. He would suggest that they not proceed with this particular motion.

Commissioner Garrey stated that even if you have the stiff siding on there with the length of the house, what they have seen the most authentic look has been the Cedar Impressions which is right across the street from that house as well.

Commissioner Aforismo stated that he likes that they will keep the wood arches.

Commissioner Lyons stated that they are keeping the clapboard style on the back of the house. He agrees with Commissioner Ovian on the clapboard look, but looking at some of the other homes, he wasn't familiar with the Cedar Impressions product that they are asking for, and they are not as bad as he thought they were. It's still a good option.

Commissioner Raymond stated that he doesn't like it. It's a long stretch of house with vinyl siding on the front and sides. It's in the heart of a very historic area.

Commissioner Cregeau stated that he agrees with Commissioner Raymond.

Aye: Garrey

Nay: Ovian, Raymond, Lyons, Aforismo

Motion Failed

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

Aye: Garrey, Ovian, Raymond, Lyons, Aforismo

APPLICATION NO. 4330-14. Percon Inc seeks to retain the demolition of the existing wood deck and construct a new 12'x12' wood deck with an attached 5'x3' stairway at 15 Avalon Place.

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

1. The balusters shall be constructed of turned wood.

Discussion

Commissioner Raymond asked if they were leaving it natural or painting it.

Commissioner Garrey stated that the only artificial product on the deck was the Azek risers.

Aye: Garrey, Ovian, Raymond, Lyons, Aforismo

APPLICATION NO. 4331-14. James Memmott seeks to replace the existing 3-tab asphalt roofing shingles on the north dormer with Owens Corning Devonshire roofing shingles in the color Tudor at 14 Dorchester Road.

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

Discussion

Commissioner Ovian stated that it will give us an opportunity to see what this roofing material will look like. His only concern is the size of the tabs. It is very large for a relatively small tudor. He is intrigued by the product.

Commissioner Garrey stated that this is a good color for the house. It seems like large spacing.

Aye: Garrey, Ovian, Raymond, Lyons, Aforismo

APPLICATION NO. 4332-14. Nancy Jezowski seeks to replace the existing wood garage door with a steel garage door at 14 Old Pewter Lane.

Upon motion by Commissioner Ovian 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 was a nice attempt on the part of the homeowner to replicate the existing door.

Aye: Garrey, Ovian, Raymond, Lyons, Aforismo

APPLICATION NO. 4333-14. Tom and Erin Kennedy seek to install a 48" black aluminum fence around the perimeter of an in ground pool and install mechanicals for the pool screened by arborvitaes at 107 Garden Street.

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

1. The fence shall meet current building code in design.

Discussion

Commissioner Ovian stated that the fence is far back on the property and if code only requires 4', it might be nicer if it's only 4'.

Commissioner Raymond stated that it was a thorough application.

Aye: Garrey, Ovian, Raymond, Lyons, Aforismo

APPLICATION NO. 4334-14. John Jakubowski and Megan Kirk seek to install a carved business sign to fit within the gable end of the portico with dimensions of 10 ¼" x 49" x 84 ¼" at 221 Main Street

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

Discussion

Commissioner Garrey stated that the size and style of the sign are a nice change and keep in style with the architecture.

Commissioner Ovian stated that it's an appropriate sign for the location.

Aye: Garrey, Ovian, Raymond, Lyons, Aforismo

APPLICATION NO. 4335-14. Allan Wong seeks to install a stone sign with carved English and Chinese writing and to install a wood fence with a chain link gate at 188 Broad Street.

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

Discussion

Commissioner Garrey stated that what he is proposing is not inappropriate to an agricultural location but they had nothing giving them an adequate idea of what it will look like once installed. They don't have a clear idea of the massing.

Commissioner Ovian stated that owner will have a little more time to contemplate where he would like to place the sign. He doesn't want the owner to be insulted by the rejection of the sign as being an unwelcomed intrusion to the District. It was just a matter of placement.

Commissioner Raymond stated that he would like to see what the fence would look like and where it will be on the property line.

Aye: Garrey, Ovian, Raymond, Lyons, Aforismo

MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 11, 2014

Upon motion by Commissioner Raymond, seconded by Commissioner Garrey and a poll of the Commission, it was voted to APPROVE the minutes of the November 11, 2014 meeting as submitted.

Aye: Garrey, Ovian, Raymond, Lyons, Aforismo

EXTENSION OF CERTIFICATES OF APPROPRIATENESS

1. Roger and Karen Tabshey seek to extend the expiration date of Certificate of Appropriateness number 4217-13 from November 13, 2014 to November 13, 2015 in order to complete construction plans at 245 Main Street.

Upon motion by Commissioner Ovian, seconded by Commissioner Garrey, it was voted to APPROVE the extension of the expiration date.

Discussion

Commissioner Ovian stated that it's a really big project and the additional time requested is appropriate.

Aye: Garrey, Ovian, Raymond, Lyons, Aforismo

EXTENSION OF CERTIFICATES OF APPROPRIATENESS (Continued)

2. Irina Stoenescu seeks to extend the expiration date of Certificate of Appropriateness number 4239-14 from March 26, 2015 to March 26, 2016 in order to complete construction of the parking area at 249-263 Main Street.

Upon motion by Commissioner Ovian, seconded by Commissioner Raymond, it was voted to APPROVE the extension of the expiration date.

Discussion

Commissioner Ovian stated that it's a big project. You never know long it might take. They have accomplished quite a bit already. He thinks they will try to finish it as soon as they can.

Aye: Garrey, Ovian, Raymond, Lyons, Aforismo

OTHER BUSINESS

Public comments on general matters of the Historic District

PRE-APPLICATION HEARING

Matt Cooper, 179 Broad Street, discussed plans for his property at 130 Hartford Avenue. He will be making window changes and plans on removing the fire escape on the back of the house. The roof will also be redone.

Report of the Historic District Coordinator

The Heritage Trail Committee is getting closer to completion of their project and they are fine-tuning the signs.

Correspondence

None.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Aye: Garrey, Ovian, Raymond, Lyons, Aforismo

Respectfully Submitted

TOWN OF WETHERSFIELD
HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION

Doug Ovian
-Clerk Pro Tem -