

The Wethersfield Historic District Commission held a Public Hearing on July 24, 2012 at the Wethersfield Town Hall, Town Manager's Conference Room – First Floor, 505 Silas Deane Highway, Wethersfield, Connecticut.

Members Present: Robert Garrey, Chairperson
Paul Courchaine, Alternate
Douglas Ovian, Alternate

Members Absent: Michael Rell, Vice Chairperson
John Maycock, Clerk
Cynthia Greenblatt
Mark Raymond
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 Ovian, Clerk, read the Legal Notice as it appeared in the *Rare Reminder* on July 12, 2012.

APPLICATION NO. 4073-12. Comstock Ferre and Company LLC seeking to demolish the existing paved parking area/driveway and re-landscape the area by creating planting beds/green space and using gravel or stone for the driveway/parking area at 263 Main Street.

Applicant not present. Verbal request received via telephone call on July 24, 2012 to continue the application to the next meeting.

APPLICATION NO. 4074-12. Robert Heckler seeking to install replacement windows at 7 Avalon Place.

Robert Heckler, 7 Avalon Place, appeared before the Commission. He would like to replace the two windows on the north side (2nd floor front) with Pella aluminum clad wood windows. They will be 6/6 simulated divided light, double-hung, with muntins on the inside and outside. The muntins will be 7/8" wide.

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. 4075-12. Eric Daigle seeking to install wood pressure treated railings on the front entryway at 8 River Road.

Applicant not present. Verbal request received via telephone call on July 24, 2012 to continue the application to the next meeting.

APPLICATION NO. 4076-12. James Turcotte seeking to install replacement windows on the side porch at 11 Howard Avenue.

Application was withdrawn via a letter from James Turcotte dated July 12, 2012.

APPLICATION NO. 4077-12. Tim Gothers Woodworking seeking to demolish the front porch and reconstruct the front porch in a new design at 335 Main Street.

Tim Gothers, 16 State Street, appeared before the Commission. They would like to remove the existing front porch and reconstruct it in a new design. There will be an arch with no raised panels over the front entrance. Drawings were submitted. They will vary the pitch and the size of the landing. The floor will be tongue and groove. The treads will be synthetic material and gray in color. They will use an Azek product for the skirt and columns. It will be painted. There will be standard wrought iron railings to meet code. The skirting will be 1"x6" and it will have ½" spacing. The columns will be square. There will be no gutters. Roofing will match the house.

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

Gary Vivian, 43 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. 4078-12. Tina and Jon Amarante-Weiner seeking to construct a 13'x14' two (2) story addition to the rear of the house and add columns and railings to the front porch at 271 Garden Street.

Gary Vivian, 43 Old Pewter Lane, appeared before the Commission. They would like to add to the back of the house. Drawings were submitted. The addition is 12'4" x13'9" for a total of 260 square feet. On the northeast elevation, on the front there is an overhang over the front door with brackets on each side. The front door will be wood, two panel, six light door. If allowed, they would like to add 10" wood columns, put some railings there, and widen the stairs slightly. From the front, between the existing house and existing garage, they are proposing a little bit larger overhang than is there now. On the southeast elevation, there will be a new Andersen 400 Series 15 light door with a storm door where the kitchen window is now. On the southwest elevation, there will be public view of the bumpout of the 1 ½ story addition on the house. To the left, there is an existing door, but they are proposing a little bit of overhang above it to mimic the bracket being used on the front of the house. On the northwest elevation, they are mimicking the window and shutters and the same 6/6 Andersen vinyl clad window. There will be a skylight on that roof. Foundation is going to match existing. It will be wood clapboard like existing. The roof details, soffit details, gutter profile and downspouts will all be the same as existing. They are proposing wood railing to follow down on each side of the stairs instead of just on the top (10" round wood columns). The front two posts will be square Azek painted white to match. The stairs will be all wood and the railings will be to code. The skirting will be square Azek boxed lattice. The decking will be front to back and all wood. The skylight will be two panels, six light 21 ½" x 56" and low profile. It will be bronze in color. The windows will be Andersen 400 Series clad wood windows with muntins applied permanently to the exterior and interior. Asphalt shingle to match existing. Cedar shake to match existing. Mitered corners to match existing. Gutters and downspouts to match existing. Shutters to match existing. Foundation to 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.

Upon motion by Commissioner Courchaine seconded by Commissioner Garrey, and a poll of the Commission, it was voted to close the public hearing on all applications while leaving applications numbered 4073-12 and 4075-12 open.

Aye: Garrey, Ovian, Courchaine

Upon motion by Commissioner Courchaine seconded by Commissioner Garrey, and a poll of the Commission, it was voted to open the public meeting.

Aye: Garrey, Ovian, Courchaine

APPLICATION NO. 4074-12. Robert Heckler seeking to install replacement windows at 7 Avalon Place.

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

Discussion

Commissioner Garrey stated that this house does have other similar replacement windows that have been approved by the Commission. These are perfectly appropriate windows to match the other approved windows in the house.

Commissioner Ovian stated that he would not normally approve replacement windows if they didn't match the look of the existing window in terms of the casement of the new window being behind the trim but because this house already has replacement windows and, more importantly, because the photograph submitted shows that the window that is inserted is stepped back in a way that's more attractive than the photograph of the submitted window, he thinks that combining precedent with the new product will work.

Aye: Garrey, Ovian, Courchaine

APPLICATION NO. 4077-12. Tim Gothers Woodworking seeking to demolish the front porch and reconstruct the front porch in a new design at 335 Main Street.

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

Discussion

Commissioner Garrey stated that one member of the public spoke that the dimensions of the new porch and stairs will be more in line with the massing of the structure and visually appealing. He agrees. The open porch is more traditional to that style of house. This is very appropriate architecturally.

Commissioner Ovian stated that what's interesting about what's there is that it's remarkably consistent with the look of the rest of the building. He doesn't find it unattractive. Porticos and entryways are individual to the owner and have the tendency to change over time. If there is a desire on the part of the owner to update or individualize the look, and it takes cues from other porticos that are in the District already, then it will be a successful one.

Aye: Garrey, Ovian, Courchaine

APPLICATION NO. 4078-12. Tina and Jon Amarante-Weiner seeking to construct a 13'x14' two (2) story addition to the rear of the house and add columns and railings to the front porch at 271 Garden Street.

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

Discussion

Commissioner Ovian stated that the presentation was very nice. The muntin size difference is a challenge because there are very few narrow muntin products available. The new products in the rear may cause the homeowner to come back to us for the other windows at some point.

Commissioner Garrey stated that this is a very nice application. The addition is very much in keeping with both the style and the massing of the building and it will be a nice addition to the building, as well as the front entryway. It will be a nice architectural detail.

Aye: Garrey, Ovian, Courchaine

MINUTES OF JULY 10, 2012

Upon motion by Commissioner Courchaine, seconded by Commissioner Ovian and a poll of the Commission, it was voted to APPROVE the minutes of the July 10, 2012 meeting as submitted.

Aye: Garrey, Ovian, Courchaine

OTHER BUSINESS

Public comments on general matters of the Historic District

None.

Report of the Historic District Coordinator

Kristin will be on vacation the week of August 6, 2012.

Correspondence

None.

ADJOURNMENT

Upon motion by Commissioner Courchaine, seconded by Commissioner Ovia and a poll of the Commission, it was voted to ADJOURN the meeting at 8:20 PM.

Aye: Garrey, Ovia, Courchaine

Respectfully Submitted

TOWN OF WETHERSFIELD
HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION

Doug Ovia
Acting Clerk