

The Wethersfield Historic District Commission held a Public Hearing on September 13, 2011 at the Wethersfield Town Hall, Town Manager's Conference Room – First Floor, 505 Silas Deane Highway, Wethersfield, Connecticut.

Members Present: Robert Garrey, Chairperson  
Michael Rell, Vice Chairperson  
Susan Gillanders, Alternate

Members Absent: Bette Botticello, Clerk  
John Maycock  
Cynthia Greenblatt  
Mark Raymond, Alternate  
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 Rell, Clerk, read the Legal Notice as it appeared in the *Rare Reminder* on September 1, 2011.

**APPLICATION NO. 3972-11.** The Town of Wethersfield seeking to install a 3'Ø x 12' wood bench carved from an 85 year old tree on a concrete pad surrounded with a 2' brick paver mower strip on the Broad Street Green.

Kathy Bagley, Town of Wethersfield Parks and Recreation Director, appeared before the Commission. They have installed a 3'Ø x 12' wood bench that was carved by a Wethersfield resident and donated to the town. It was carved from a red oak tree that fell during the June 2009 tornado. The bench has been placed on the Green where the tree fell.

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

Grace Hayes, 139 Broad Street, spoke in favor of the application.

Arlene Veilleux, 81 Broad Street, spoke against the application.

Paula Rubinow, 271 Main Street, spoke in favor of the application.

Geraldine Munroe, 855 Ridge Road, spoke in favor of the application.

Ed Bayer, 81 Broad Street, spoke against 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. 3973-11.** Mark Raymond seeking to install exterior lighting and a cupola with weathervane on the open pavilion at 323 Hartford Avenue.

Mary Diaz Raymond, 323 Hartford Avenue, appeared before the Commission. She would like to install a cupola with a weathervane on the open pavilion. The cupola is 18" square x 26" in height and it is white with a copper top. It is a wood cupola. The weathervane is made out of copper. For the exterior lighting, the three sides facing Hartford Avenue will each have an onion light in brushed nickel color.

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

Paula Rubinow, 271 Main Street, had a question about the application regarding the material of the proposed cupola.

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. 3974-11.** Kevin Hill seeking to replace the aluminum siding with vinyl siding at 187 Garden Street.

Kevin Hill, 187 Garden Street, appeared before the Commission. He would like to replace the aluminum siding with a 4" double lap vinyl Mastic siding in a Victorian Gray color. The corner boards will be white to match the window wraps.

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. 3975-11.** Pamela Smith seeking to install a stainless steel chimney cap at 350 Hartford Avenue.

Pamela Smith, 350 Hartford Avenue, appeared before the Commission. Her attic was leaking so she called a chimney service and they installed a 6" x 40' liner and a 17" x 35" cap. It is already installed. Photos were submitted with the application. It is a standard stainless steel chimney cap.

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. 3962-11.** Peter DeNegre and Juan Garcia seeking to install replacement windows at 527 Main Street. (Left open at the August 9, 2011 meeting. Tabled at the August 23, 2011 meeting. The last date to act is September 13, 2011.)

Peter DeNegre and Juan Garcia, 527 Main Street, appeared before the Commission. They would like to amend their application and only replace the four basement windows at this time. They are proposing custom made aluminum windows. They would like to use either a transom or an awning window. The windows can have muntins applied to the interior or exterior and they will replicate the light patterns.

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. 3971-11.** Paula Rubinow seeking to amend application number 3915-11 which amended application number 3880-10 to modify the design of the driveway at 271 Main Street. (Tabled at the August 23, 2011 meeting. The last date to act is September 27, 2011.)

Paula Rubinow, 271 Main Street, and Renaldo Montalvo of R&M Construction, 16 Church Street, appeared before the Commission. She would like her driveway to be all asphalt instead of the partial pavers and asphalt stipulated by the Commission. She also submitted an alternative design with a half-moon of pavers on each end and asphalt in the middle, but she prefers all asphalt.

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

Geraldine Munroe, 855 Ridge Road, 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. 3976-11.** Susan and Patrick Hayes seeking to amend application number 3879-10 to change the roofing material on the porch from asphalt to a standing seam metal roof at 451 Main Street.

Susan and Patrick Hayes, 451 Main Street, and Tim Gothers, 16 State Street, appeared before the Commission. They would like to change the roofing material on the rear porch from asphalt shingles to match the rest of the house to a standard standing seam metal roof. The color will be dark bronze. The roofing dimensions will be 16" x 1.5".

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 Rell seconded by Commissioner Gillanders, and a poll of the Commission, it was voted to close the public hearing on all applications and open the public meeting.

Aye: Garrey, Rell, Gillanders

**APPLICATION NO. 3972-11.** The Town of Wethersfield seeking to install a 3'ø x 12' wood bench carved from an 85 year old tree on a concrete pad surrounded with a 2' brick paver mower strip on the Broad Street Green.

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

**Discussion**

Commissioner Garrey stated that there are strong opinions on this in both directions. People either love it or hate it, but the question is whether or not it is appropriate. It's a large structure, but it's a large open area. It's freshly carved wood so it is bright, and it will dull over time. He considers it to be public art and it's absolutely beautiful.

Commissioner Rell stated that he loves history and he loves the significance that it fell right there at that location. If you move the bench to a more discreet area, the history is lost. It is very bright but over time it is fading.

Commissioner Gillanders stated that she feels that it's appropriate. She feels that it's in a good location and there are a lot of kids playing on it and taking advantage of history.

Aye: Garrey, Rell, Gillanders

**APPLICATION NO. 3973-11.** Mark Raymond seeking to install exterior lighting and a cupola with weathervane on the open pavilion at 323 Hartford Avenue.

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

**Discussion**

Commissioner Garrey stated that the weathervane design is very unique, but it is far enough back from the road that no one will see anything other than that it is a weathervane.

Commissioner Rell stated that over time the copper on the weathervane will fade.

Aye: Garrey, Rell, Gillanders

**APPLICATION NO. 3974-11.** Kevin Hill seeking to replace the aluminum siding with vinyl siding at 187 Garden Street.

Upon motion by Commissioner Rell, 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 vinyl 4" double lap by Mastic in the color Victorian Gray.
2. The trim shall be wrapped in white to match the existing.
3. The corner boards shall be in the color white.

**Discussion**

Commissioner Garrey stated that while the Commission doesn't love vinyl, this is a man-made material changing to another man-made material.

Aye: Garrey, Rell, Gillanders

**APPLICATION NO. 3975-11.** Pamela Smith seeking to install a stainless steel chimney cap at 350 Hartford Avenue.

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

**Discussion**

Commissioner Garrey stated that it is necessary and to code.

Commissioner Gillanders stated that this is pretty straightforward.

Aye: Garrey, Rell, Gillanders

**APPLICATION NO. 3962-11.** Peter DeNegre and Juan Garcia seeking to install replacement windows at 527 Main Street. (Left open at the August 9, 2011 meeting. Tabled at the August 23, 2011 meeting. The last date to act is September 13, 2011.)

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

1. The certificate shall only be issued for the basement windows and shall not include or approve the windows for the house.
2. All light patterns on the basement windows shall be replicated to match the existing with muntins permanently affixed to the exterior.
3. The windows shall be an awning style that tilts out.
4. The windows shall be wood aluminum clad in the color white.

### **Discussion**

Commissioner Garrey stated that for the basement, he wouldn't be concerned about the material and the cladding because of the moisture issues down there. In historic homes in prominent areas, the Commission is very cautious about approving windows. In this case it is more important to maintain the design of the window rather than the material and avoid putting in a modern sliding window

Commissioner Rell stated that living in the District and seeing what wood windows look like versus aluminum or vinyl, he would go with wood windows.

Aye: Garrey, Gillanders

Nay: Rell

**APPLICATION NO. 3971-11.** Paula Rubinow seeking to amend application number 3915-11 which amended application number 3880-10 to modify the design of the driveway at 271 Main Street. (Tabled at the August 23, 2011 meeting. The last date to act is September 27, 2011.)

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

1. Stone pavers shall be installed on the driveway and shall start at the end of the brick ramp for the commercial addition on the front of the building which abuts the wood porch on the residential portion of the building and end at the town sidewalk. The remaining driveway shall be asphalt.
2. The pavers shall match in style and color the pavers used on the patio which is located between the garage and the new addition on the rear of the building.

### **Discussion**

Commissioner Garrey stated that the original concern was the massing in the area. The structures are close together. There are a lot of big buildings and houses that are close together. There are many asphalt driveways on Main Street. There is a lot going on at this location – a porch, a brick ramp, brick paver walkways, and a lot of structures and benches. It's not a big impact to the District to change it, but he doesn't like the design with the half circles because it's more modern. He prefers either a square asphalt design or pavers because it's cleaner.

Commissioner Rell stated that he agrees that the half-moon design is too modern and wouldn't fit in with Old Wethersfield. He understands the concern for massing. He would not have a problem with brick going up to where the ramp ends and then the rest would be asphalt.

Aye: Garrey, Rell, Gillanders

**APPLICATION NO. 3976-11.** Susan and Patrick Hayes seeking to amend application number 3879-10 to change the roofing material on the porch from asphalt to a standing seam metal roof at 451 Main Street.

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

1. The color of the roof shall be dark bronze.
2. The size of the standing seam roof shall be 16" x 1½".

### **Discussion**

Commissioner Garrey stated that this is pretty straightforward, just a change in materials. It is a nice material and won't be too visible.

Commissioner Rell stated that this style roof holds up well and will look great.

Aye: Garrey, Rell, Gillanders

**MINUTES OF AUGUST 23, 2011**

Upon motion by Commissioner Garrey, seconded by Commissioner Rell and a poll of the Commission, it was voted to APPROVE the minutes of the August 23, 2011 meeting as submitted.

Aye: Garrey, Rell, Gillanders

**OTHER BUSINESS**

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

None.

**Report of the Historic District Coordinator**

Attendance at the last few meetings hasn't been consistent. Even though three members constitute a quorum, each meeting should have at least five Commissioners in attendance. There are some Commissioners who haven't been attending meetings on a regular basis and they should consider whether or not they would like to continue on the Commission. Some applications may automatically be approved if there is not a quorum and an application has not been acted upon within the 65 days allotted to the Commission. Kristin has been scrambling to get at least three members to attend the last few meetings.

**Correspondence**

None.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Upon motion by Commissioner Rell, seconded by Commissioner Gillanders and a poll of the Commission, it was voted to ADJOURN the meeting at 8:47 PM.

Aye: Garrey, Rell, Gillanders

Respectfully Submitted

TOWN OF WETHERSFIELD  
HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION

Michael Rell  
Acting Clerk