

The Wethersfield Historic District Commission held a Public Hearing on February 23, 2010 at the Wethersfield Town Hall, Town Manager's Conference Room – First Floor, 505 Silas Deane Highway, Wethersfield, Connecticut.

Members Present: John Maycock, Vice Chairperson
Michael Rell
Gary McLeod, Clerk
Lisa Wurzer, Alternate
Mark Raymond, Alternate
Bette Botticello, Alternate

Members Absent: Robert Garrey, Chairperson
Susan O'Brien

Also Present: Kristin Stearley, Historic District Coordinator
Linda Messina, Recording Secretary

Commissioner Maycock 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 February 12, 2010.

APPLICATION NO. 3784-10. Alan and Norma Peck seeking to replace the wood cedar shakes with vinyl clapboard siding at 8 Railroad Place.

Norma Peck of 8 Railroad Place and Steve Czerwinski of Steve Czerwinski Inc., 1365 Silver Lane East Hartford, appeared before the Commission. They would like to replace wood shake siding on the house with double four Certainteed monogram vinyl siding, 046 gauge, in a Pacific Blue color. They have a rough cedar finish. Window and door casings will be wrapped with built in channels so it will look more like a wood cedar clapboard job. Porch ceilings, currently wood bead board will be replaced with vinyl bead board. All overhangs, rake boards, and fascia boards will be trimmed out with aluminum. Existing siding will be left on, but they will go over it with a 3/8 backer insulation board. They will build out the window casings so they are flush with the siding. Seamless 32" Alcoa gutters will be used. There are currently no shutters on the house. The existing awnings will be put back on the house. All trim and gutters will be white.

Commissioner Maycock 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. 3785-10. Steven Bechtel seeking to replace the wood garage door with a steel door at 18 Chesterfield Road.

Steven Bechtel of 18 Chesterfield Road appeared before the Commission. He would like to replace the existing wood garage door that is painted almond in color with a steel door in almond color. The existing door is warped. The steel door has a wood look to it. It is insulated and slightly lighter in weight. He has wood clapboard on the front and shakes on the other three sides and he plans on keeping them as is. He will not be painting the new door as it will already be almond in color.

Commissioner Maycock 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. 3786-10. Karen and Greg Candee seeking to amend application number 3668-09 to change the roofing material from metal to asphalt shingles at 148 Garden Street.

Karen Candee of 148 Garden Street appeared before the Commission. She would like to amend the existing approved application. The approved copper roofing over the garage, mudroom and kitchen is too cost prohibitive and there will be a problem with gutters as the water will just splash off the copper. She would like to use asphalt shingles to match the rest of the house.

Commissioner Maycock 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. 3787-10. Paul Brennan seeking to reconstruct the rear porch, repair the front porch, replace the rear and front entry doors and replace the kitchen windows at 118 Church Street.

Paul Brennan of 3 Burbank Road, Ellington, appeared before the Commission. On the front porch, he would like to replace the lattice work to make it look more cosmetically correct. He plans to use 1 by 8 cedar trim boards all around the skirting of the deck. He won't touch the deck unless he has to, but he will make like for like changes if necessary. The stairs will be replaced and brought up to code. The stair treads will be SDK cedar. All trim boards will be cedar. The lattice will be privacy lattice in 3/4" which is a smaller diameter than existing and will be square. Hand rails will be painted cedar. The spindles will be square instead of round. The post at the end will be cedar with a copper top.

On the back of the house, water is weeping underneath the wall where the door is on the enclosed porch. He needs to tear it down and rebuild it as the water has wicked up and rotted the whole wall. He will re-shingle that portion of the roof to match what exists on the house. He will use Anderson wood windows with true divided light on the rear porch re-build. He will rebuild the rear deck and will use the same railing and lattice work on the back as he is using in the front. The new stair façade will be 5' wide. He will remove plywood which exists over two windows on the driveway side of the house, clean the windows up and paint them. The kitchen cabinetry is installed over where the two windows are located so on the inside of the house he has painted the drywall white so when the plywood is removed it will look from the street as if a shade has been drawn on the window. All trim will be replaced like for like.

For the front door, the existing door is broken and can't be repaired. The home owner doesn't want to replace the existing door with a similar door. They would like to replace the door with a fiberglass Cleary Masonite Barrington Mahogany door. The existing wood door has three panels and 8 lights on top. The proposed door has an oval decorative glass design insert.

They would also like to replace the back door. The new door will be a fiberglass paintable door with 15 panels. They will still have a full view storm door in the front and the back of the house.

Commissioner Maycock 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 Raymond, and a poll of the Commission, it was voted to close the public hearing on all applications and open the public meeting.

Aye: Maycock, McLeod, Rell, Raymond, Botticello

APPLICATION NO. 3784-10. Alan and Norma Peck seeking to replace the wood cedar shakes with vinyl clapboard siding at 8 Railroad Place.

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

Discussion

Commissioner Maycock stated that going from wood to vinyl is a drastic change, especially going from cedar to clapboards is a bigger change. If anything has to be done, he'd rather see a Cedar Impression like on some of the other houses. He personally feels this is too drastic of a change to approve.

Commissioner Raymond agrees. He stated that it's a wood cedar sided house and once it's covered, it's gone and it takes away from the district.

Nay: Maycock, McLeod, Rell, Raymond, Botticello

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

Discussion

Commissioner Maycock stated that we have a completely wood house and once we turn it to vinyl, there's no going back. There have been some houses in the district that have been changed, but nothing as dramatic, going from a cedar shake to a vinyl clapboard. It's just not appropriate.

Aye: Maycock, McLeod, Rell, Raymond, Botticello

APPLICATION NO. 3785-10. Steven Bechtel seeking to replace the wood garage door with a steel door at 18 Chesterfield Road.

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

Discussion

Commissioner Raymond stated that he would love to see it replaced with a wood door, but it's a good quality steel door.

Commissioner Maycock stated that he also hates to see a wood door gone. Personally he doesn't like metal doors. It does look like a quality door. It is a panel door with depth to it.

Commissioner McLeod stated that it's the same design and the same color.

Commissioner Rell stated that the owner's argument was the painting/maintenance of the door and the weight of the door just in case he loses power. In the photo of the house, the existing door looks white, not almond.

Aye: Raymond

Nay: Maycock, McLeod, Rell, Botticello

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

1. The door shall be painted to match the existing trim and door.

Discussion

Commissioner McLeod stated that everything but the color is fine with the new door. If it's painted to match the existing door, you won't be able to tell the difference.

Aye: Rell, McLeod, Raymond

Nay: Botticello, Maycock

APPLICATION NO. 3786-10. Karen and Greg Candee seeking to amend application number 3668-09 to change the roofing material from metal to asphalt shingles at 148 Garden Street.

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

Discussion

Commissioner Maycock stated that this is pretty much cut and dried.

Commissioner Botticello stated that this will match the rest of the roof.

Aye: Maycock, McLeod, Rell, Raymond, Botticello

APPLICATION NO. 3787-10. Paul Brennan seeking to reconstruct the rear porch, repair the front porch, replace the rear and front entry doors and replace the kitchen windows at 118 Church Street.

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

Discussion

Commissioner Maycock stated that this was a very detailed application, but they need more input on the front door as it is not in character with other houses in the neighborhood.

Commissioner Botticello stated that she agrees.

Commissioner Raymond stated that the rest of the application is fine – it's just the front door.

Aye: Maycock, McLeod, Rell, Raymond, Botticello

MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 9, 2010

Upon motion by Commissioner Maycock, seconded by Commissioner Rell and a poll of the Commission, the minutes of the February 9, 2010 meeting were approved without objection.

Aye: Maycock, Raymond, Wurzer

Abstention: Rell, McLeod

OTHER BUSINESS

Public comments on general matters of the Historic District

None.

Report of the Historic District Coordinator

None.

Correspondence

None.

ADJOURNMENT

Upon motion by Commissioner Rell, seconded by Commissioner Raymond and a poll of the Commission, it was voted to ADJOURN the meeting at 8:22 PM.

Aye: Maycock, McLeod, Rell, Raymond, Botticello

Respectfully Submitted
TOWN OF WETHERSFIELD
HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION

Gary McLeod
Clerk