

The Wethersfield Historic District Commission held a Public Hearing on August 26, 2008 in the First Floor Conference Room at the Wethersfield Police Department, 250 Silas Deane Highway, Wethersfield, Connecticut.

Members Present: Robert Garrey, Chairperson  
Eric Hart, Vice Chairperson (Arrived at 7:36)  
John Maycock, Clerk  
Gary McLeod  
Bette Botticello, Alternate  
Mike Rell, Alternate

Members Absent: Susan O'Brien  
Mark Raymond, Alternate

Also Present: Kristin Stearley, Historic District Coordinator

Commissioner Garrey called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM, and read the opening comments. Commissioner Maycock, Clerk, read the Legal Notice as it appeared in the *Hartford Courant* on August 15, 2008.

**APPLICATION NO. 3631-08.** Maureen Hayes seeking to install an 8' x 12' wooden canopy behind the garage at 29 Hartford Avenue.

Maureen Hayes of 29 Hartford Avenue, appeared before the commission. Ms. Hayes explained that the canopy will not be attached to the current garage but placed on the footprint of the chicken coop. It will consist of cedar shakes and a shingle roof. She also stated that it will be bigger and more prominent than she had originally planned.

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. 3624-08.** Joan Driscoll seeking to install wood fencing, demolish existing garage and replace with 12' x 26' garage at 1 Fernwood Street. (Tabled from August 12, 2008 Meeting. Last day to act is September 23, 2008)

Scott English of 11 Coleman Road, appeared before the commission on behalf of Ms. Driscoll. Mr. English explained that the proposed garage has had dimensional changes from 12' x 26' to 14' x 26'. It will be a pre-fabricated structure by Carefree Small Buildings with Farefax Novelty wood siding. The windows will be vinyl clad and will have shutters that match the color of the house. The roof of the structure will be a grey shingle and the front and side doors will be steel. Mr. English was unsure of the pitch of the structure's roof.

The proposed fence will be a wood constructed fence made of 6' tall by 8' wide sections. The fencing will not extend beyond the front of the house and there will be about five (5) sections in place before a section of trees that grows along the edge of the property, and two (2) sections after the section of trees. The fence would be a straight board fence with no gaps and will be painted white. Each section has a wooden post at the end of it with square caps on them.

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. 3625-08.** Webb-Deane-Stevens Museum seeking to 1) modify the 18th century woodshed next to the Webb house; 2) demolish the existing 20th century additions located behind the woodshed; and 3) construct a new addition as per proposed plan at 211 Main Street. (Tabled from August 12, 2008 Meeting. Last day to act is September 23, 2008).

No one was present to speak on behalf of the application.

**APPLICATION NO. 3629-08.** Douglas Buck seeking to 1) Adptively re-use the existing barns for an Arts Academy; 2) Demolish and replace/reconstruct the buildings known a the Ox shed and the Carriage house; 3) Construct a twenty-three (23) car parking area; 4) Install landscaping and lighting; 5) Temporarily remove, for later replacement, the building known as the Manure shed at 411 Hartford Avenue. (Tabled from August 12, 2008 Meeting. Last day to act is September 23, 2008)

Gary Vivian of 43 Old Pewter Lane, appeared before the commission on behalf of Douglas Buck.

Mr. Vivian had nothing additional to add to the application aside from a drawing which clarified the appearance of the five foot (5') covered walkway with a post opening to make it more authentic.

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

Sandy Wakeen of 128 Parker Road, Somers, spoke in favor of the application.

Jane Zisk of 411 Hartford Avenue, spoke in favor of the application.

Rudolph Brown of 6 Drummer Trail, Bloomfield, spoke in favor of the application.

Doug Gillette of 18 Bobolink Lane, Enfield, spoke in favor of the application.

Dr. Rachael McLean of 434 Hartford Avenue, spoke in opposition of the application.

Judy Tatters of 23 Broad Street, spoke in favor of the application.

Kelly Smurthwaite of 36 West Maxwell Avenue, West Hartford, spoke in favor of the application.

Leigh Standish of 278 Hartford Avenue, spoke in favor of the application in a letter dated August 23, 2008 and read into the record by Commissioner Maycock.

Richard Dibiase of 291 Hartford Avenue, spoke in favor of the application in a letter dated August 26, 2008 and read into the record by Commissioner Maycock.

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.

WETHERSFIELD HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION  
PUBLIC HEARING

August 26, 2008

Upon motion by Commissioner Hart, and seconded by Commissioner Maycock and a poll of the Commission, it was voted to close the public hearing and open the public meeting on all the applications.

Aye: Garrey, Maycock, Hart, McLeod, Botticello

**APPLICATION NO. 3631-08.** Maureen Hayes seeking to install an 8' x 12' wooden canopy behind the garage at 29 Hartford Avenue.

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

**Discussion**

Aye: Garrey, Maycock, McLeod, Botticello                      Abstention: Hart

**APPLICATION NO. 3624-08.** Joan Driscoll seeking to install wood fencing, demolish existing garage and replace with a 12' x 26' garage at 1 Fernwood Street.

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

**Discussion**

It was agreed that the commission needed to know the pitch of the roof, as well as if Carefree Small Buildings provides other options for the pre-fabricated structures, before a decision could be made.

Aye: Garrey, Maycock, Hart, McLeod, Botticello

**APPLICATION NO. 3625-08.** Webb-Deane-Stevens Museum seeking to 1) modify the 18th century woodshed next to the Webb House; 2) Demolish the existing 20th century additions located behind the woodshed and; 3) construct new addition as per proposed plan at 211 Main Street.

Since there was no one present at the meeting to speak on behalf of the application, this application remains TABLED.

**APPLICATION NO. 3629-08.** Douglas Buck seeking to 1) Adptively re-use the existing barns for an Arts Academy; 2) Demolish and replace/reconstruct the buildings known a the Ox shed and the Carriage house; 3) Construct a twenty-three (23) car parking area; 4) Install landscaping and lighting; 5) Temporarily remove, for later replacement, the building known as the Manure shed at 411 Hartford Avenue.

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

- 1) The Ox barn will be built as shown in the drawing submitted

**Discussion**

Commissioner Garrey felt that there is not much asphalt in the plan when compared to the scale of both the property and the project. He also stated that the application is sensitive to the neighborhood.

Aye: Garrey, Hart, Maycock, McLeod, Botticello

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF: August 12, 2008**

Upon motion by Commissioner Maycock, seconded by Commissioner Hart and a poll of the Commission the minutes of the August 12, 2008 meeting were approved without objection.

**OTHER BUSINESS**

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

None.

**Report of the Historic District Coordinator**

Kristin Stearley reported that the Commission received a letter from the Town Attorney dated August 21, 2008 regarding FOIA docket #FIC 2007-496, Carol Szymanski v. Wethersfield Historic District Commission, Town of Wethersfield. It contained the final decision of the Freedom of Information Commission upholding the Hearing Officer's decision in favor of the Wethersfield Historic District Commission and the Town of Wethersfield.

**Correspondence**

None.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Upon motion by Commissioner McLeod and seconded by Commissioner Maycock and a poll of the Commission, it was unanimously voted to ADJOURN the meeting at 8:10 PM.

Aye: Garrey, Hart, Maycock, McLeod, Botticello

Respectfully Submitted  
TOWN OF WETHERSFIELD  
HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION

John Maycock  
Clerk