

**WETHERSFIELD HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION**  
**PUBLIC HEARING**  
**July 24, 2007**

The Wethersfield Historic District Commission held a Public Hearing on July 24, 2007 in the 1st Floor Conference Room at the Town Hall, 505 Silas Deane Highway, Wethersfield, Connecticut.

Members Present:

Susan O'Brien, Chairperson  
Robert Garrey, Acting Clerk  
Gary McLeod  
Eric Hart, Alternate  
Bette Botticello, Alternate

Members Absent:

John Maycock, Alternate  
Mark Raymond, Alternate

Also Present:

Kristin Stearley, Historic District Coordinator

Commissioner O'Brien, Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 7:33 PM, and read the opening comments. Commissioner Garrey read the Legal Notice as it appeared in the *Hartford Courant* on July 13, 2007.

**APPLICATION NO. 3505-07.** Chris Hayes and Amy Lawson seeking to replace the existing fencing at 95 Garden Street.

Chris Hayes and Amy Lawson of 95 Garden Street appeared before the commission. The applicants presented a plot plan of the entire street with #13 marked as the applicant's property along with photographs of the proposed fencing. The proposed fencing in the back and rear of the property will replace the stockade/picket fencing with post and rail fencing. The length of the post and rail fencing will be 2-10 ft. sections = 20 ft. on each side.

Commissioner O'Brien 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. 3501-07.** Summit Construction Services seeking to install 14 thermal replacement windows at 29 Harmund Place (Tabled from the July 10, 2007 meeting).

Homeowner, William Curtin of 29 Harmund Place appeared before the commission.

Commissioner O'Brien asked the applicant if he had discussed why the application was tabled with Kristin Stearley. He indicated that he had, and Ms. Stearley stated that during the discussion she had stressed the importance of using windows with the grids on the outside of the glass.

Commissioner O'Brien explained to Mr. Curtin that the profile of the mullion on the window is an important architectural feature of any home. Commissioner Garrey stated that vinyl windows do not adequately replicate original wood windows.

Commissioner O'Brien and Commissioner Garrey asked the applicant to speak again with Kristin Stearley regarding the types of window approved in the past and come back to the commission with other options.

Commissioner O'Brien thanked the applicant.

Robert Smart of 62 Church Street appeared before the commission to speak in favor of the application. He stated that the concept of evolving technology strikes him that the applicant is proposing one.

Ken Sokolowski of 79 Main Street appeared before the commission to speak in support of the application the way it is. He stated that if you really need to see a profile from a side of a mullion you can hire an artist to paint them on the outside of the glass to get some representation.

Commissioner O'Brien 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. 3502-07.** Dwight DeBow seeking to replace the window sash and some replacement windows at 293 Middletown Avenue (Tabled from July 10, 2007 meeting).

The applicant was not present at the hearing. Commissioner Garrey read a fax dated July 18, 2007 from Dwight DeBow into the record. Commissioner Garrey did not have photos regarding what the windows would resemble.

Commissioner O'Brien 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 Hart, and seconded by Commissioner Botticello and a poll of the Commission, it was voted to close the public hearing on the discussed applications and to open the public meeting on those applications.

Aye: Botticello, Garrey, Hart, McLeod, O'Brien

**WETHERSFIELD HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION  
PUBLIC MEETING  
July 24, 2007**

**APPLICATION NO. 3505-07.** Chris Hayes and Amy Lawson seeking to replace the existing fencing at 95 Garden Street.

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

**Discussion**

Commissioner Hart stated that the proposed fencing will enhance the look of the house and community.

Commissioner Hart and Commissioner O'Brien both agreed that it was a well done and thorough application.

Aye: Botticello, Garrey, Hart, McLeod, O'Brien

**APPLICATION NO. 3501-07.** Summit Construction Services seeking to install 14 thermal replacement windows at 29 Harmund Place (Tabled from the July 10, 2007 meeting).

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

**Discussion**

Commissioner Hart stated that by tabling the application, the applicant would have another opportunity to review different products and have more time to make a decision.

Commissioner Garrey stated that comments were made regarding evolving technology. Technology needs to evolve

further to provide windows that are energy efficient and that adequately represent the original product.

Commissioner O'Brien feels strongly that the Commission has an obligation to work with the public and try to come to a solution.

Aye: Botticello, Garrey, Hart, McLeod, O'Brien

**APPLICATION NO. 3502-07.** Dwight DeBow seeking to replace the window sash and some replacement windows at 293 Middletown Avenue (Tabled from July 10, 2007 meeting).

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

### **Discussion**

Commissioner O'Brien stated that the applicant did exactly what the Commission asked for but needs more clarification on the windows, which he can do with Kristin Stearley.

Commissioner Garrey indicated that the changes to the windows be appropriate to the older colonial homes throughout the town. Commissioner Hart noted that he also would like clarification on the style of the windows.

Aye: Botticello, Garrey, Hart, McLeod, O'Brien

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF: June 26, 2007**

Upon motion by Commissioner Hart, seconded by Commissioner Botticello, [the minutes of the June 26, 2007](#) were APPROVED. Commissioner O'Brien abstained.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF: [July 10, 2007](#)**

Page 6 - Under Other Business - Public comments on general matters of the Historic District the sentence should read: Commissioner O'Brien noted Commissioner's Wolf resignation from the HDC, and thanked her for her many years of service and dedication.

Page 6 - Report of the Historic District Coordinator the sentence should read: She will be working on Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.

### **OTHER BUSINESS**

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

Ken Sokolowski of 79 Main Street appeared before the Commission to speak about various issues. He also passed out a flyer to the Commission regarding the Silas W. Robbins House Tour, 185 Broad Street from October 5 - 14, 2007 sponsored by the Richard M. Keane Foundation.

Mr. Sokolowski addressed the Commission on several issues:

- Comstock Ferre project - venue for tonight's meeting
- Meeting Room locations - the naming of the 1st Floor Conference Room at the Town Hall
- Additional copies of the HDC's agenda readily available for the public
- Large public group at the Pitkin Community Center - Public should be able to hear the meeting therefore the Community Center should have a PA system
- Database available to the public - How often is this updated?

- Photographic record of all buildings which he would like to review
- Critical of the behavior of the Historic District Commission regarding the Comstock Ferre project; lawsuit against the town
- For the record - Not in favor of the HDC being disbanded
- Administrative flaws of the HDC; HDC has in place good, clear and concise procedures

Mr. Sokolowski then addressed Kristin Stearley regarding the following questions:

- When the Annual Election of Officers for the HDC is taking place
- Wants an annual report from the HDC on the last 5 years. If not, HDC is in violation of the Connecticut State Statutes

Mr. Sokolowski addressed the Commission and wishes them well.

Robert Smart of 62 Church Street appeared before the Commission and endorsed the points that Ken Sokolowski made to the Commission.

#### **Report of the Historic District Coordinator**

None.

### **CORRESPONDENCE**

#### **ADDENDUM - PUBLIC MEETING**

##### **PROPOSAL TO CHANGE MEETING TIMES FROM 7:30 PM TO 7:00 PM**

Upon motion by Commissioner Garrey and seconded by Commissioner Botticello and a poll of the Commission, it was voted to change the scheduled meeting times from 7:30 PM to 7:00 PM.

Aye: Botticello, Garrey, McLeod, O'Brien Nay: Hart

##### **APPROVAL OF MEETING DATES FOR 2008**

Upon motion by Commissioner Garrey and seconded by Commissioner Botticello and a poll of the Commission, it was unanimously voted to APPROVE the 2008 meeting dates as presented.

Aye: Botticello, Garrey, Hart, McLeod, O'Brien

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Upon motion by Commissioner Garrey and seconded by Commissioner Hart and a poll of the Commission, it was unanimously voted to go into Executive Session at 8:27 PM in order to discuss pending litigation.

Aye: Botticello, Garrey, Hart, McLeod, O'Brien

Upon motion by Commissioner Garrey and seconded by Commissioner Hart and a poll of the Commission, it was unanimously voted to leave Executive Session at 8:28 PM.

Aye: Botticello, Garrey, Hart, McLeod, O'Brien

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Upon motion by Commissioner Garrey and seconded by Commissioner Hart and a poll of the Commission, it was unanimously voted to ADJOURN the meeting at 8:28 PM.

Respectfully Submitted  
TOWN OF WETHERSFIELD  
HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION

Robert Garrey  
Acting Clerk