

**WETHERSFIELD HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION  
PUBLIC HEARING  
JANUARY 24, 2006**

The Wethersfield Historic District Commission held a Public Hearing on January 24, 2006 in the Town Council Conference Room at the Town Hall, 505 Silas Deane Highway, Wethersfield, Connecticut.

Members Present:

Susan O'Brien, Chairperson  
Douglas Ovian, Vice Chairperson  
Vacek Miglus  
Bette Botticello, Alternate  
Eric Hart, Alternate  
Gary McLeod, Alternate

Members Absent:

Jennifer Wolf, Clerk  
Robert Garrey

Also Present:

Robert Cook, Historic District Coordinator

Chairperson O'Brien called the meeting to order at 7:32PM, and read the opening comments. Commissioner Ovian, Vice Chairperson and Clerk Pro Tem, read the Legal Notice as it appeared in the *Hartford Courant* on January 13, 2006.

**APPLICATION NO. 3366-06.** Patty Cakes Bakery seeking to install a sign in the front window at 227 Main Street.

Mark Fichandler of 227 Main Street appeared before the commission. Mr. Fichandler explained that he currently has a bakery in Rocky Hill where the products are baked. Products will be brought to the Wethersfield location for sale. The décor of the bakery will be the same as existed in the bakery that was previously at the Main Street location. Minor changes will be made to accommodate new products being sold. The new bakery has been opened since January 21, 2006.

Mr. Fichandler explained that he is seeking approval for a window sign. It will be made of vinyl appliqué, and will consist of the bakery's logo and pictures of several products. A picture of the proposed sign was submitted with the application.

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

Roger Rubinow of Middletown spoke in favor of the application saying that he is a fan of the bakery in Rocky Hill and feels the business is a good one for the district.

**APPLICATION NO. 3363-06.** Paula Rubinow seeking to place a 4-foot bench in front of the property at 271 Main Street (Tabled from the meeting of January 10, 2006).

Roger Rubinow, father of the applicant, appeared before the commission. He indicated that the actual size of the bench is 6' and not 4' as noted on the application. Commissioner Miglus asked whether the intent was for the 6' bench to match the existing 8' bench. Mr. Rubinow stated it was.

Commissioner O'Brien asked whether the intent was to move the 6' bench that is currently located at the former location of The Creamery. Mr. Rubinow confirmed that the plan is to move the bench at the former location.

Commissioner O'Brien indicated that whether the bench is moved may not be relevant to the application, but the empty space created at the former location of The Creamery mattered to her. Commissioner O'vian indicated that another application would have to be filed for approval to remove the bench.

Robert Cook appeared before the commission on behalf of the Town of Wethersfield. Bonnie Therrien, Town Manager, is co-applicant on the application. Mr. Cook explained that the town owns the land where the bench currently stands. Ms. Therrien sent an email to Mr. Cook on January 24 indicating that the town was not aware that the application called for removal of the bench, and that the town is not in favor of moving the bench from its current location. Mr. Cook listed several other issues/concerns noted by Ms. Therrien. They were:

- The bench is actually 50% bigger than listed on the application. Because of the potential massing problem, another public notice should be posted.
- Ms. Therrien signed the application assuming the bench was sponsored by the Beautification Trust as a memorial to David Longley. This is not the case.
- The Beautification Trust is not in favor of moving the bench. Therefore, the town wishes to withdraw the application to move the bench. All requests to move benches should go to the Beautification Trust before an application for a Certificate of Appropriateness from the HDC is filed. Ms. Therrien apologized for having the application filed without approval from the Beautification Trust.

Mr. Rubinow asked what the current status of the application is. Commissioner O'vian explained that, since the town has withdrawn the application, the HDC will not act of the application. Mr. Rubinow asked what the next course of action should be. Commissioner O'vian suggested Mr. Rubinow discuss the next steps with Mr. Cook.

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

Aye: Botticello, Hart, McLeod, Miglus, O'vian Abst: O'Brien

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**APPLICATION NO. 3366-06.** Patty Cakes Bakery seeking to install a sign in the front window at 227 Main Street.

Upon motion by Commissioner Miglus, seconded by Commissioner O'vian and a poll of the Commission, it was voted to APPROVE the application as submitted.

**Discussion**

Commissioner Miglus indicated that the sign is appropriate for the district and will go well with other signs on that block.

Commissioner McLeod asked whether there are minimum size requirements for signs. He noted that the sign is very nice, but is 88" X 44". Robert Cook explained that the size issue would be addressed by the Zoning Board. The HDC only regulates the look of the sign and its appropriateness in the district. Commissioner O'Brien asked whether Commissioner McLeod objected to the size of the sign. He stated he did not.

Aye: Botticello, Hart, McLeod, Miglus, O'vian Abst: O'Brien

**APPLICATION NO. 3363-06.** Paula Rubinow seeking to place a 4-foot bench in front of the property at 271 Main Street (Tabled from the meeting of January 10, 2006).

No vote was taken on this application since it has been withdrawn.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF: [January 10, 2006](#)**

Upon motion by Commissioner Miglus, seconded by Commissioner Botticello and a poll of the Commission, it was voted to APPROVE the minutes as presented.

Aye: Botticello, Hart, McLeod, Miglus, O'vian Abst: O'Brien

**OTHER BUSINESS**

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

None.

**Report of the Historic District Coordinator**

Robert Cook received a letter from Ida DiPalma regarding the garage door. The letter was referred to Commissioner Miglus.

A letter dated January 12, 2006 from Jennifer Aniskovich, Executive Director of the Connecticut Commission on Culture and Tourism was received. Commissioner O'vian read the letter into the record, which indicates that there is a plan to proceed with the installation of the historic sign and thanked the HDC with its help in finalizing the sign. Commissioner O'vian stated he received an email from someone from Greenwich CT objecting to certain aspects of the sign. He referred the email to Anne Kuckro indicating that it was not up to the HDC to micromanage the installation of the sign.

Commissioner O'vian advised Ms. Kuckro that the HDC appreciated being asked for input on the sign, and felt that that should be the extent of its involvement.

Mr. Cook advised the commission that as part of Wethersfield's selection as a Preserve America community, HGTV wants to do a program on Old Wethersfield. He recommended the bed and breakfast on Broad Street be highlighted in the program. Billye Logan will coordinate with HGTV. She has already been in contact with Peter Gillespie. Mr. Cook suggested that commissioners contact Ms. Logan if they have any suggestions for other buildings that should be featured.

The owners of the Rainbow Center on Garden Street also own the building at 121 Main Street. The owners plan on renovating the building into an apartment on the first floor and office space on the second floor. Mr. Cook stated he thought the only part of the renovation that might need to be reviewed by the HDC would be the demolishing of the garage.

Mr. Cook stated he is attending a meeting with Barbara Clancy and Fred Odell regarding the installation of windows. A building permit was never issued because the HDC never approved the windows that were going to be installed. The meeting is scheduled for January 25 at 10:30AM. Commissioner O'Brien stated she is also attending that meeting. She asked commissioners to refer any questions or concerns about this matter to her or to Mr. Cook prior to the meeting.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

None.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Upon motion by Commissioner Ovian, seconded by Commissioner Miglus and a poll of the Commission, it was unanimously voted to ADJOURN the meeting at 8:08PM.

Aye: Botticello, Hart, McLeod, Miglus, Ovian Abst: O'Brien

Respectfully Submitted  
TOWN OF WETHERSFIELD  
HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION

Douglas Ovian  
Clerk Pro Tem