

The Wethersfield Historic District Commission held a Public Hearing on February 26, 2013 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
Mark Raymond
Lisa Wurzer, Alternate
Douglas Ovian, Alternate
Paul Courchaine, Alternate

Members Absent: Cynthia Greenblatt, Clerk Pro Tem
John Maycock

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 February 14, 2013.

APPLICATION NO. 4121-13. Sacred Heart Church seeks to remove the existing aluminum windows and replace with vinyl SDL windows at 56 Hartford Avenue.

Tim Gothers of Tim Gothers Woodworking LLC, 16 State Street, appeared before the Commission. They would like to remove all aluminum double-hung windows on the hall and connector (does not include the stained glass windows in the church). The brick veneer will remain as is. Of the three existing opaque windows, only the one window in the ladies room will remain opaque. They will match existing size, style and light patterns. They would like to use Paradigm simulated divided light vinyl windows. They will be white in color. They will use ½ screens.

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

Tim Gothers, 16 State Street, spoke in favor of the application.

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. 4122-13. Erin and Scott Cremins seek to (1) remove and replace the front door and side door, (2) construct a 16' x 16' deck at the rear of the house, and (3) remove two west side windows and replace with a vinyl GBG sliding glass door at 89 Church Street.

Tim Gothers of Tim Gothers Woodworking LLC, 16 State Street, and Erin and Scott Cremins, 89 Church Street, appeared before the Commission. They would like to remove and replace the existing front and side doors with a Classic Craft American fiberglass door. The front door will have a screen door. The existing door has four lights. The new door will have six lights. There will be a screen door. The deck will be made of Trex and will have a white PVC rail system. The fascia boards will be white PVC. They will use white PVC latticework on the bottom of the deck. The deck will be 16' x 16'. The decking will be grey in color. There will be stairs off the deck going towards the driveway. They

will remove two windows and install a 6' white vinyl sliding door. It will be a double 15 light sliding door with muntins between the glass. There will be standard coach lights on either side of the sliding door.

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. 4123-13. Wieslaw Wlazniak seeks to construct a 12' x 12' storage shed in the rear yard at 66 Northbrick Lane.

Wieslaw Wlazniak and Sebastian Wlazniak, 154 Charter Road, appeared before the Commission. They would like to construct a 12' x 12' storage shed in the rear yard, 25' from the back corner of house. Drawings were submitted. The front of shed will face the street. There will be a single center door made of plywood and covered with siding. There will be a standard white vinyl gutter. There will be a single hopper window on the side facing the back yard. There will be standard 4" white vinyl siding to match the house. There will be a ramp. The shed will be set on cinder blocks. There will be standard white vinyl cornerboards. The trim will be wrapped.

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

Tim Gothers, 16 State Street, spoke in favor of and offered suggestions for the application.

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 Raymond, and a poll of the Commission, it was voted to close the public hearing and to open the public meeting.

Aye: Garrey, Rell, Raymond, Courchaine, Wurzer

APPLICATION NO. 4121-13. Sacred Heart Church seeks to remove the existing aluminum windows and replace with vinyl SDL windows at 56 Hartford Avenue.

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

1. The windows shall be replaced with Paradigm vinyl simulated divided light windows with the muntins permanently affixed to the interior and exterior.
2. All light patterns shall match the existing light patterns.
3. Opaque glass shall be used on the single window to the right of the doors.
4. All screens shall be ½ screens.

Discussion

Commissioner Garrey stated that as much as he hates aluminum windows, he thinks this makes a bad situation worse. You go from very low visibility aluminum windows to bright shiny plastic windows on a very large structure. They will be 6/6 or 8/8 so you will see even more vinyl than you would see on the sample window. This is a very plain building with appropriate decoration but when you take a pretty large structure, take out the aluminum windows that don't have a lot of sheen or a lot of visibility and put in plain white vinyl windows, they are large windows and a lot of window area.

Commissioner Raymond stated that most of the visibility comes from the church part of the building which stands out to the front of the building where everything else tends to be toward the back of the building and facing away from the street.

Commissioner Ovian stated that vinyl has been criticized, but the vinyl in the off-white color doesn't appear to be substantially different than what aluminum wrapped SDLs would look like. He thinks it's reasonable to think that the white would also have the somewhat dull finish. The muntins and putty bed look like a pretty decent replication. They will be more visible than the aluminum windows they will replace. They have taken a common 1950s structure and given it ornamentation. It would be nice if it's possible to have silver screens versus black ones against the new white muntins.

Commissioner Wurzer stated that she was questioning the ½ screen versus the whole screen to make it more consistent appearance.

Aye: Garrey, Rell, Raymond, Courchaine

Abstain: Wurzer

APPLICATION NO. 4122-13. Erin and Scott Cremins seek to (1) remove and replace the front door and side door, (2) construct a 16' x 16' deck at the rear of the house, and (3) remove two west side windows and replace with a vinyl GBG sliding glass door at 89 Church Street.

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

1. The doors shall be as submitted, an American Style Collection fiberglass door with 6 lights and 2 panels.
2. The deck shall be constructed of Trex material in the color grey with white PVC fascia boards and white wrapped PVC lattice.
3. The railing design shall be as submitted in white PVC with a square baluster with toe kick.
4. Standard coach lights shall be installed to each side of the sliding glass doors.

Discussion

Commissioner Garrey stated that this is a rather low impact. The Commission very rarely approves PVC lattice. He likes the door pattern since that house is very unique and plain and that door ties into most of the doors on Church Street, somewhat uniform to the doors on the Hubbard Colonials.

Commissioner Ovian stated that he is intrigued and concerned at the same time. He has seen houses that are relatively plain Colonial look like this house is right now successfully given an arts and crafts spin with the addition of just these kinds of doors as well as some other elements that these owners aren't doing right now including some porticos. The addition of the six light door from the traditional four light is something that he thinks will work out especially since it's a door that has to be finished. On the other hand you are taking a Colonial house, adding an arts and crafts door, the porch is called Victorian something, and it's pretty close to Colonial. At first he was thinking that that there's a lot of things going on if you're going to take three different styles and have the house carry all that off, but what merits against those concerns is that they are going to put on two doors so both doors will match and will give that arts and crafts look for both entries and the rear, although it's called Victorian, for the most part, the only dressy part is the top rail. So the bigger issue is how much of an impact does it have on the District, and you have to think about the road, but even if everything was down, it would have a very large impact on the District, so that would offset some of his concerns.

Commissioner Rell asked if there was any consideration that it not be a white fascia board?

Commissioner Wurzer stated that she has had an issue with the PVC lattice before and that was on an all wood application except for the lattice. She still doesn't like it.

Commissioner Couchaine asked who is going to be able to see this deck?

Aye: Garrey, Rell, Raymond, Courchaine, Wurzer

APPLICATION NO. 4123-13. Wieslaw Wlazniak seeks to construct a 12' x 12' storage shed in the rear yard at 66 Northbrick Lane.

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

Discussion

Commissioner Garrey stated that he doesn't have a problem with the shed not having windows, so it's an outbuilding and matching the house is fine, but they weren't really offering anything else when they were discussing alternate door designs. It would be good to see them suggest what they would want for a door. His issue was he doesn't know how they are wrapping or framing the door, and it would look bad if they didn't frame the door to try to make it disappear or it could look bad when they frame the door because the siding might not line up. They should suggest an alternate door design.

Commissioner Raymond stated that he's not so clear on what they want to do with the door other than making it something that is inappropriate.

Commissioner Rell stated that he doesn't like the door but he also doesn't like the wrapping of the entire shed in vinyl siding. It looks like a 12' x 12' small house in this open plot.

Commissioner Ovian stated that he thinks it should have a contrasting door.

Commissioner Wurzer stated that the door is a flat piece of plywood with no design and the drawing is not to scale. The door will be a major part of what you're going to see.

Commissioner Courchaine doesn't agree that we should be setting a precedent for the District that we have to have a contrasting door.

Aye: Garrey, Rell, Raymond, Wurzer

Nay: Courchaine

MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 12, 2013

Upon motion by Commissioner Rell, seconded by Commissioner Ovian and a poll of the Commission, it was voted to APPROVE the minutes of the February 12, 2013 meeting as submitted.

Aye: Rell, Courchaine, Ovian

Abstain: Wurzer, Raymond

OTHER BUSINESS

Public comments on general matters of the Historic District

Tim Gothers, 16 State Street, discussed chimney caps. They are becoming a mechanical necessity and he doesn't feel there should be any particular mandate on shape or color.

Report of the Historic District Coordinator

None.

Correspondence

None.

ADJOURNMENT

Upon motion by Commissioner Raymond, seconded by Commissioner Rell and a poll of the Commission, it was voted to ADJOURN the meeting at 8:40 PM.

Aye: Garrey, Rell, Raymond, Courchaine, Wurzer

Respectfully Submitted

TOWN OF WETHERSFIELD
HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION

Michael Rell
-Vice Chairman and Clerk Pro Tem -