

The Wethersfield Historic District Commission held a Public Hearing on October 8, 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  
Douglas Ovian, Clerk Pro Tem  
Cynthia Greenblatt, Alternate

Members Absent: John Maycock  
Mark Raymond  
Lisa Wurzer, Alternate

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 Ovian, Clerk, read the Legal Notice as it appeared in the *Rare Reminder* on September 26, 2013.

**APPLICATION NO. 4203-13.** Sacred Heart Church seeks to demolish the chimney at the rear of the house and to install venting for a direct vent boiler consisting of 4" diameter stainless steel tubing about 1' in length through the center basement window on the north elevation of the house at 56 Hartford Avenue.

Brian Freeman, 59 Church Street, appeared before the Commission. They would like to remove the small chimney at the rear of the house. The venting is actually 3" in diameter and the length is actually several inches. An existing window in the basement will be used for venting. The roof will be closed off to match existing. There will be a stainless steel mesh screen at the end of the vent tubing.

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. 4204-13.** Adam Gove seeks to 1) install vinyl replacement windows; 2) replace the wood front door with a steel door; 3) install raised panel vinyl shutters; and 4) replace the wood garage door with a new wood garage door at 47 Kenwood Road.

Adam Gove, 47 Kenwood Road, appeared before the Commission. A sample of the proposed window was provided. They would like to install Harvey Slim Line vinyl windows. The brick mold casing, existing sill, and window stops will not change. They would like to go from a horizontal 2/2 to a 1/1 light pattern. The storm windows will be removed. They will match existing windows in style and size. The front door is now a six light wood door. They would like to replace it with a Craftsman six light door with no side lights. It is a steel door. There will be grids between the glass. They would like to replace the garage door with a steel garage door. It is the Craftsman Sonoma door with a Stockton 3 light pattern and the spear hardware. The door has flat panels. There are currently no shutters on the house, but there were shutters at some point. They would like to install Williamsburg raised panel shutters only on the front two windows. The shutters will be painted a cream color. The two awnings will be removed. The front door and the garage door will be painted. The garage door has raised grills on the windows.

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. 4205-13.** Margaret Taylor seeks to amend Certificate of Appropriateness number 4154-13 to change the manufacturer of the replacement windows from Marvin Infinity to Jeld-Wen at 371 Garden Street.

Maureen McCurda, 371 Garden Street, appeared before the Commission. DiGiorgio was doing the lead abatement work, but they cannot work with lead abatement project windows, so she had to go with another contractor, Joe Abrue. He works with Jeld-Wen windows, so they would like to change from Marvin Infinity windows to Jeld-Wen windows. Everything is the same except for the brand of window. The wood exterior will be painted dark chocolate. The windows are simulated divided light and have interior/exterior permanently applied muntins to match existing light pattern of 6/1.

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. 4196-13.** James Ebert and Allison Read seek to install 40' of 6' wood privacy fencing along the northern property line at 468 Main Street. (Left open at the September 24, 2013 meeting of the HDC. The last date to act is October 22, 2013.)

Allison Read, 468 Main Street, appeared before the Commission. They would like to install 40' of 6' cedar stockade privacy fence along the northern property line. They will use round posts. The good side of the fence will face out. The fence will start at the front of the existing garage and go back 40'. A photo of the proposed fence was submitted.

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. 4201-13.** Robert and Nancy Jones seek to install business signage on the building and on an existing post at 7 Railroad Place. (Left open at the September 24, 2013 meeting of the HDC. The last date to act is October 22, 2013.)

Robert Jones, 5 Broad Street, appeared before the Commission. Photos of the signs were submitted. They will install the new sign in the same space as the previous sign on the building. It is a 3' x 5' oval in shape, one-sided sign. It will be carved PVC. It will be green background with gold lettering to match the awnings. There will also be a sign for a post. It will be 60" wide x 36" high. It will also be carved PVC, but two-sided. It will have the same colors as the building sign. They have decided not to put the #7 on the signs.

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 Ovia seconded by Commissioner Rell, and a poll of the Commission, it was voted to close the public hearing and to open the public meeting.

Aye: Garrey, Rell, Ovia, Greenblatt

**APPLICATION NO. 4203-13.** Sacred Heart Church seeks to demolish the chimney at the rear of the house and to install venting for a direct vent boiler consisting of 4" diameter stainless steel tubing about 1' in length through the center basement window on the north elevation of the house at 56 Hartford Avenue.

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

### **Discussion**

Commissioner Greenblatt stated that it's very unobtrusive.

Commissioner Garrey stated that it's a beautiful house that has two very prominent chimneys. The chimney in question, although common to these houses, was a utility chimney. He doesn't think it will have a significant impact on the property. He was more concerned if it was a chimney that had any exterior facing on the walls, but it comes right through the roof. They've seen a lot of the venting in the District and this is really the best option for venting because it's just plain stainless steel.

Commissioner Rell stated that the one chimney to the east elevation is a really decorative, beautiful chimney.

Aye: Garrey, Rell, Greenblatt

Recusal: Ovian

**APPLICATION NO. 4204-13.** Adam Gove seeks to 1) install vinyl replacement windows; 2) replace the wood front door with a steel door; 3) install raised panel vinyl shutters; and 4) replace the wood garage door with a new wood garage door at 47 Kenwood Road.

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

1. The front door shall be a steel Craftsman three (3) light door with the muntins permanently affixed to the exterior.
2. The shutters shall be louvered.
3. The garage door shall be a steel Wayne Dalton garage door in the Ranch style with the Stockbridge light pattern with the muntins permanently affixed to the exterior.

### **Discussion**

Commissioner Garrey stated that the louvered shutters went well with the other elements. He likes the raised panels versus the other door which has flat panels. They had talked about the grids being exterior. The garage door was exterior grills. He's not touching the exterior wood trim. You will see the white window, but everything else will be cream.

Commissioner Ovian stated that he has a couple of thoughts. He thinks they are on the right track with louvered shutters. Normally he likes the panels on the right house. This house is too contemporary to pull off a raised panel shutter. A louvered shutter is much more typical. It works on houses that are more contemporary. He favors that. When someone like Adam comes in, who has been doing work in the District a lot, he takes every application with respect towards what the person is bringing in, but even more so with someone who does this every day. He thinks that the Sonoma door is way too busy for that space, especially with the vertical lines if you're going to have louvered shutters with horizontal lines. He has only seen this type of door in a few places and he doesn't feel

that it best replicates a wood door. He would like them to have the windows if they are looking for the light in the garage. Is this an exterior grill or grill between the glass? He thinks it would look better if it was white all the way to the edge.

Commissioner Rell stated that if you look at the 1970s garage door, which has the three windows, with just the two panels, you get the same effect.

Aye: Garrey, Rell, Ovian, Greenblatt

**APPLICATION NO. 4205-13.** Margaret Taylor seeks to amend Certificate of Appropriateness number 4154-13 to change the manufacturer of the replacement windows from Marvin Infinity to Jeld-Wen at 371 Garden Street.

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

### **Discussion**

Commissioner Garrey stated that the window they approved initially was because the contractor used that particular window. It's a very nice window but they've used the Jeld-Wen as well which is also a very nice window. It must be some kind of baked-on finish as opposed to cladding. This is a very prominent house with a lot of windows.

Commissioner Ovian stated that this is actually a wood window. It's an SDL. His impression is that there is more wood to these windows than there was with the Marvin Infinity. This reads more like wood. He was pleased to see the change.

Aye: Garrey, Rell, Ovian, Greenblatt

**APPLICATION NO. 4196-13.** James Ebert and Allison Read seek to install 40' of 6' wood privacy fencing along the northern property line at 468 Main Street. (Left open at the September 24, 2013 meeting of the HDC. The last date to act is October 22, 2013.)

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

### **Discussion**

Commissioner Garrey stated that this is beautiful and will have minimal impact. They are gaining a little bit of privacy without closing in that beautiful property.

Commissioner Ovian stated that this is a beautiful fence with real posts.

Commissioner Rell stated that he is glad that it's just one side of the yard and not four sides or three sides.

Aye: Garrey, Rell, Ovian, Wurzer

**APPLICATION NO. 4201-13.** Robert and Nancy Jones seek to install business signage on the building and on an existing post at 7 Railroad Place. (Left open at the September 24, 2013 meeting of the HDC. The last date to act is October 22, 2013.)

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

**Discussion**

Commissioner Garrey stated that he likes the color change. The sizes are appropriate and so is the lettering style.

Commissioner Ovian stated that the signs are great. They go with the building nicely.

Aye: Garrey, Rell, Ovian, Greenblatt

**CERTIFICATE OF APPROPRIATENESS NUMBER 4096-12** – Giuseppe Buonannata seeks to extend the expiration date of Certificate of Appropriateness number 4096-12 on property located at 15 Middletown Avenue for one year with the new expiration date being October 24, 2014.

Upon motion by Commissioner Garrey, seconded by Commissioner Greenblatt and a poll of the Commission, it was voted to APPROVE the extension of the expiration date.

Aye: Garrey, Rell, Ovian, Greenblatt

**MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 24, 2013**

Upon motion by Commissioner Rell, seconded by Commissioner Garrey and a poll of the Commission, it was voted to APPROVE the minutes of the September 24, 2013 meeting.

Aye: Garrey, Rell, Ovian

Abstain: Greenblatt

**OTHER BUSINESS**

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

None.

**Report of the Historic District Coordinator**

Kristin has been in discussions with Peter Gillespie regarding the photos of 2003. They had received a grant to take the photos and upload the images. The company handling the website is now defunct and the website is no longer working. Peter is trying to figure out if there is a way to use the information that can be integrated into another software. He wants to know what the Commission expects to get from that website. They want to make it more user friendly. They would like to attach the certificates to each property. They also want to attach photos from previous surveys. What was on the website was the 2003 pictures and the descriptions that were on the back of the photos from the 1975 survey. Kristin has mentioned to Peter that another photo survey is due to include the buildings as well as outbuildings.

**Correspondence**

None.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Upon motion by Commissioner Rell, seconded by Commissioner Ovian and a poll of the Commission, it was voted to ADJOURN the meeting at 8:47 PM.

Aye: Garrey, Rell, Ovian, Greenblatt

Respectfully Submitted

TOWN OF WETHERSFIELD  
HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION

Douglas Ovian  
-Clerk Pro Tem -