

The Wethersfield Historic District Commission held a Public Hearing on July 22, 2014 at the Wethersfield Town Hall, Town Manager's Conference Room – First Floor, 505 Silas Deane Highway, Wethersfield, Connecticut.

Members Present: Robert Garrey, Chairperson
John Maycock, Clerk
Douglas Ovian, Vice Chairperson
Chris Lyons
Mark Raymond
Damien Cregeau, Alternate

Members Absent: Lisa Wurzer, Alternate
John Aforismo, 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 Maycock, read the Legal Notice as it appeared in the *Rare Reminder* on July 10, 2014.

APPLICATION NO. 4285-14. Lisa Leonard seeks to replace the wood front door and sidelights with a new wood front door with simulated divided light sidelights and to repair/re-face the front steps at 71 Center Street.

Lisa Leonard, 71 Center Street, appeared before the Commission. Photos were submitted. They want to replace the original door. They will keep the leaded ½ moon window above the door. They would like to use a Reeb wood (fir) painted 6 panel door with no windows. It will have side lights which will be simulated divided light with a shadow spacer. The trim will be replaced in kind. The front stairs are currently cement with brick sides. They will be resurfaced with a field stone top and there will be stone on the risers. They will be similar to the stairs at 360 Hartford Avenue. The field stone will be taupe in color. The railings will remain the same.

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. 4286-14. Joe Carey III seeks to retain the installation of a 33'x18'x52" above ground pool and to install a 6' wood privacy fence to screen the pool from public view at 57 Middletown Avenue.

Joe Carey, 57 Middletown Avenue, appeared before the Commission. The pool has already been installed. Photos were submitted. The pool is beige in color. Emerald Green arborvitaes have been planted to screen the pool. The pool has a swing gate with a locking ladder. If the plantings do not provide enough screening, he will install a 6' wood stockade fence.

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

Jim D'Errico, 63 Middletown Avenue, spoke in favor of the application.

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. 4283-14. Rich and Meher Shulman seek to replace a rear double hung window with an 8' sliding glass door, install stairs for the door, and install lighting at 40 Oldham Road. (Left Open at the July 8, 2014 meeting. The last date to act is August 12, 2014.)

Rich and Meher Shulman, 40 Oldham Road, appeared before the Commission. A letter from the applicants was read into the record. Photos were submitted. They would like to use an Andersen 200 Series PermaShield door. It is 8' wide and vinyl clad. They prefer no grills on the door. The house currently has vinyl windows. The step will be wood and will only be on the side of the door that opens, which is to code. They will install a white security light next to the door (photo 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. 4281-14. Shawn Burke seeks to replace the wood siding with Kaycan Eagle Rock vinyl shingle style siding with mitered corners at 2 Howard Avenue. (Tabled at the July 8, 2014 meeting. The last date to act is August 12, 2014.)

Shawn Burke, 72 Stoner Drive, West Hartford, and George Bartholomay, 2 Howard Avenue, appeared before the Commission. They would like to install cedar-style siding. They would like to use Kaycan Eagle Rock Perfection vinyl split shake shingles with a 6" reveal in the color Smoke. Samples were provided. The trim will be white. They will have mitered corners. They will eliminate the vertical boards. The shutters will be black vinyl louvered. They will be wrapping the eave boards.

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

Aye: Garrey, Ovia, Maycock, Lyons, Raymond

APPLICATION NO. 4285-14. Lisa Leonard seeks to replace the wood front door and sidelights with a new wood front door with simulated divided light sidelights and to repair/re-face the front steps at 71 Center Street.

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

Discussion

Commissioner Ovian stated that the use of a wood door and wood SDL is the closest to reproducing what's there now. It's not uncommon for wood TDL that isn't custom made to be available in standard widths that are thicker than the thinner muntin profile that you tend to see in a house of their age. SDL more accurately replicates the width of the muntin. He shares the concern about replacing the sidelights, if they accurately replicate what's there and match the new door, he feels more comfortable about it because they are replicating the look of the existing. Also, steps tend to come and go with a certain fashion and what they're looking for here is available for the Commissioners to look at on another similar street. It's pleasing to the eye and appropriate for the building.

Commissioner Garrey stated that it's hard to ask for much more than this. Having had a house of that period with the side lights, the side lights are very thin. He sympathizes with their concern. They went to the extra care to replicate the light pattern that's there which is a critical characteristic of the house.

Aye: Garrey, Ovian, Maycock, Lyons, Raymond

APPLICATION NO. 4286-14. Joe Carey III seeks to retain the installation of a 33'x18'x52" above ground pool and to install a 6' wood privacy fence to screen the pool from public view at 57 Middletown Avenue.

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

1. The pool shall be screened from all public view with arborvitaes.

Discussion

Commissioner Garrey stated that he likes the arborvitaes as planted. The fence would be more of a barrier on a narrow street.

Commissioner Maycock stated that he prefers the natural screening to a stockade fence.

Commissioner Ovian stated that the arborvitaes will fill in and it will be nice to have a hedge there.

Commissioner Lyons stated that a stockade fence would be overkill in that space.

Aye: Garrey, Ovian, Maycock, Lyons, Raymond

APPLICATION NO. 4283-14. Rich and Meher Shulman seek to replace a rear double hung window with an 8' sliding glass door, install stairs for the door, and install lighting at 40 Oldham Road. (Left Open at the July 8, 2014 meeting. The last date to act is August 12, 2014.)

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

Discussion

Commissioner Ovian stated that the site line is really limited to this house. The product they are requesting is consistent with the other windows in the house. The lack of a grill pattern is not completely without example in the District. The light is a bit of a mystery to him, but it will have very little impact on the building.

Commissioner Lyons stated that, grill or no grill, it does match that other casement window.

Aye: Garrey, Ovian, Maycock, Lyons, Raymond

APPLICATION NO. 4281-14. Shawn Burke seeks to replace the wood siding with Kaycan Eagle Rock vinyl shingle style siding with mitered corners at 2 Howard Avenue. (Tabled at the July 8, 2014 meeting. The last date to act is August 12, 2014.)

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

1. The siding shall be vinyl split shake with a 6" reveal and mitered corners in the color Smoke.
2. The trim shall be wrapped in white aluminum
3. The shutters shall be vinyl in the color black and shall be louvered.

Discussion

Commissioner Ovian stated that his concern is tempered by the fact that they have used this product on quite a few houses. Overall, he thinks they do help to retain a sense of the buildings from that era, but it's hard to say that this is going to do that. It's less than half the reveal of what's up there now. As a Commission, they are sacrificing a look in the District. These kinds of shingles don't seem to age successfully and are difficult for homeowners to maintain over time. This product isn't bad for a synthetic solution. There are things that you are giving up like the reveal. He is concerned over losing the vertical paneling siding that is in the front because that, with the reveal, is very much a look ... you know when that house was built.

Commissioner Cregeau stated that it's surprising for the sake of the homeowners that they like this reveal.

Commissioner Garrey stated that they've used the product on other applications in the District, especially with the mitered corners. He thinks it does a nice job of replicating. This has a bit of a wide reveal. The design proposed does a nice job of marrying the design of the shingles on the existing house. The look that is being placed on the house is different, but it's not inappropriate.

Aye: Garrey, Maycock, Lyons

Abstain: Raymond

Nay: Ovian

MINUTES OF JULY 8, 2014

Upon motion by Commissioner Maycock, seconded by Commissioner Raymond and a poll of the Commission, it was voted to APPROVE the minutes of the July 8, 2014 meeting as submitted.

Aye: Garrey, Maycock, Ovian, Lyons, Raymond

PRE-APPLICATION HEARING

Pre-Application Hearing – The Wethersfield Heritage Walk Committee seeks to discuss plans to install signage for a walking history tour throughout the Wethersfield Historic District.

Peter Gillespie, Town Planner, appeared before the Commission. Drawings of the signs were submitted. There will be a public information session at Keeney at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, July 29 2014. They are still in the design phase. The wayside exhibits will each have a single granite post (size and scale, waist high, similar to the sign in front of Lucky Lou's). The panel won't be granite, but they are still reviewing a couple of design options. There will be four larger kiosks. Panel sizes may vary depending on what information is needed.

OTHER BUSINESS

Public comments on general matters of the Historic District

None.

Report of the Historic District Coordinator

1. Congratulations to Commissioner Lyons on the extension of his term.
2. John Aforismo has been appointed as an alternate for the Commission.
3. The Heritage Walk Committee will have a public hearing at 6:30 p.m. next Tuesday, July 29, 2014 at the Keeney.
4. A new position has been created – a Zoning and Blight Enforcement Officer. The new person started last week and her name is Monica Holloway.
5. Kristin will be on vacation the week of August 4th.

Correspondence

None.

ADJOURNMENT

Upon motion by Commissioner Maycock, seconded by Commissioner Ovian and a poll of the Commission, it was voted to ADJOURN the meeting at 8:49 PM.

Aye: Garrey, Ovian, Maycock, Lyons, Raymond

Respectfully Submitted

TOWN OF WETHERSFIELD
HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION

John Maycock
-Clerk -