

Historic District Commission
March 9, 2015
Town Hall – Room #2
127 Norwich Avenue

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairman Ellen Sharon, Linda Akerman, Nancy Anderson, Robert Kvederas and Stanley Stefanowicz ; Alternate: Janice Adams; (arrived at 7:04 p.m.); Staff: Randy Benson, Asst. Planner/Zoning Enforcement Officer; Gail Therian, Clerk;

MEMBERS ABSENT – None

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Sharon called this Regular Meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

2. **ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA**

Chairman Sharon said that there were three (3) additions to the agenda: 1) under Item # 8 – New Business “School for Colored Children Scheduling for school tours”; 2) under Item 7 - Old Business A. Update on Repair Issues and 3) Item B Informational Brochure request from the Historical Society.

3. **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING** – Regular Meeting March 9, 2015

R. Kvederas said that a correction needed to be made for the motion on the bottom of page 1. He said he did not second the motion as he was not in attendance. The clerk researched this and found that it was **S. Stefanowicz who seconded this motion.**

Motion by: N. Anderson

Second by: L. Akerman

to waive the reading of the minutes of March 9, 2015 and to approve the minutes as amended.

Vote: Unanimous by those present

4. **FIVE MINUTE SESSION FOR PUBLIC** – No one spoke

5. **PUBLIC HEARINGS** –

- A. **HDC#15-002 –Elisa Ferrar, applicant/Dorothy Seitz, owner of property located at 24 Norwich Avenue.** Application for a Certificate of Appropriateness for signage for ice cream shop at 24 Norwich Avenue within the Historic District. Map # 16 Lot # 066-000.

R. Benson read the Public Hearing notice published in the Rivereast on Friday, May 1, 2015.

Mitch Farnham, representing the applicant, presented a sample of the poly carbonate material that he would like to use for the sign or he said he could use the Azek brand material. He would like to use this type of material as it would last longer. He said that the sign would hang in the open area of the porch. He provided the Commission members a copy of the proposed sign and said that he would like to use vinyl letters. Discussion followed regarding the proposed material and the vinyl letters. The Commission agreed that the sign should be made of wood with painted letters on the front side.

Motion by: N. Anderson

to close the Public Hearing on HDC#15-002.

Second by: L. Akerman

Vote: Unanimous by those present

- B. **HDC#15-003 - Don Rossi, applicant/Leann M. Maxwell, owner of property at 204 South Main Street;** Application for a Certificate of Appropriateness for a new front entry landing to replace cement stairs within the Historic District. Map # 12-001/026-002.

R. Benson read the Public Hearing notice published in the Rivereast on Friday, May 1, 2015

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Don Rossi, applicant, told the Commission that he was seeking approval for the construction of a new front entry landing to replace the failed cement stairs. He said the new structure would be made out of wood to better conform to the historical surroundings. He said in time he would like to put a roof over the platform, but this would be something in the future. The structure would be built over the cement stairs but would not be seen. This porch is needed to provide a second egress from the house. Currently, there is only one set of stairs to exit from because the second set of cement stairs has deteriorated. Discussion followed.

Motion by: N. Anderson
to close the Public Hearing on HDC#15-003.
Second by: R. Kvederas
Vote: Unanimous by those present

6. New Applications-

- A. HDC#15-002 –Elisa Ferrar, applicant/Dorothy Seitz, owner of property located at 24 Norwich Avenue. Application for a Certificate of Appropriateness for signage for ice cream shop at 24 Norwich Avenue within the Historic District. Map # 16 Lot # 066-000.

Discussion was held regarding the type of material for the sign to be used, the lettering and the location. It was decided that the application could be approved if the sign was constructed with wood, the lettering on the front of the sign be painted and the sign hung of the porch in the open space.

Motion by: E. Sharon
to approve HDC#15-002 with the material used for the sign being wood, the lettering on the front side of the sign be painted and the sign is to be hung over the porch in the Open Space.
Second by: N. Anderson
Vote: Unanimous by those present

- B. HDC#15-003 - Don Rossi, applicant/Leann M. Maxwell, owner of property at 204 South Main Street; Application for a Certificate of Appropriateness for a new front entry landing to replace cement stairs within the Historic District. Map # 12-001/026-002.

N. Anderson asked if the front entry landing would be painted or would it be left natural. D. Rossi, applicant, said that landing would be painted in the same blue color as the Tavern House.

Motion by: R. Kvederas
to approve HDC#15-003 as submitted.
Second by: N. Anderson
Vote: Unanimous by those present

7. OLD BUSINESS –

A. Update on Repair Issues

E. Sharon said that she was not able to make the Commission Chairman's meeting in April, but did send a report stating that the winter was hard on the School for Colored Children and in addition to the lost roof shingles, one of the two sign posts holding up the explanatory signage for the school was destroyed. The Public Works Department will be constructing new posts and re-install the sign.

J. Adams suggested that the Public Works Department inspect the posts for "Historic District" signs as one of them is rotting.

B. Informational Brochure request from the Historical Society

E. Sharon told the Commission that the Historical Society would like to recreate the walking tour brochure. They would like a place to make these available to the public on the Town Green and asked for this Commission's input on

the location for these brochures. Discussion followed and it was decided that they could be placed on the back side of the Community event sign, as it is a good location and would not entail having another sign on the Green.

R. Kvederas showed pictures of the erosion taking place at the bottom of the Civil War Memorial. R. Benson said that he will bring this to the attention of J. Paggioli, the Public Works Director.

8. NEW BUSINESS

A. "School for Colored Children" Scheduling for school tours;

E. Sharon asked for volunteers to conduct the tour of the School for Colored Children for the third (3rd) grade classes. It was decided that J. Adams would help open the School on May 22 and N. Anderson would also be there. N. Anderson would be there on May 27, 2015. L. Akerman would volunteer on June 2, 2015 and J. Adams would be available to work on June 3, 2015. E. Sharon asked that if anyone could not make their commitment to contact her

9. COMMUNICATIONS –

E. Sharon said that the CT Trust for Historic Preservation will be holding a "Pints for Preservation" event on Thursday, May 21, 2015 from 6:00 to 10:00 p.m. in downtown New London.

E. Sharon said that she received a message from K. Frantzen, Board of Selectmen liaison to the Commission, saying that he would not be able to attend this meeting because of the emergency Board of Finance meeting.

10. ENFORCEMENT OFFICER'S REPORT – None

11. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by: R. Kvederas
to adjourn this meeting.
Second by: L. Akerman
Vote: Unanimous by those present

Chairman Sharon adjourned the meeting at 7:33 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Gail N. Therian, Clerk