

Historic District Commission
April 11, 2016
Town Hall – Room #1
127 Norwich Avenue

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairman Ellen Sharon, Linda Akerman, and Stanley Stefanowicz; Alternate: Janice Adams
Board of Selectmen Liaison: John Jones; Staff: Randy Benson, Planning Director; Gail Therian, Clerk;

MEMBERS ABSENT – Robert Kvederas and Nancy Anderson

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

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

2. **ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA** – None

3. **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING** – Regular Meeting March 14, 2016

Motion by: S. Stefanowicz
to waive the reading of the minutes.

Second by: L. Akerman
Vote: Unanimous by those present

Motion by: S. Stefanowicz
to approve the minutes of March 14, 2016 as presented.

Second by: L. Akerman
Vote: Unanimous by those present

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

5. **PUBLIC HEARINGS** –

- A. **HDC#16-002 – Ryan McAuliffe, applicant/Town of Colchester, owner of property located on Town Green.** Application for a Certificate of Appropriateness for improvement of the Civil War monument by constructing a wall around its base with a set of steps. Assessor Map # 16 Lot # 048-001.

R. McAuliffe, applicant, explained his proposed Eagle Scout project. He said he would like to build a short wall around the base of the Civil War Monument with a set of steps. He said that when the Town Green is used for events, people park their cars near the monument and this wall would prevent the statute from being damaged. He submitted copies of the types of pavers and steps he would be using and presented the plan for the installation of the landscape wall.

Speaking in favor - No one spoke

Speaking in Opposition

Chuck Savitsky, landowner in Colchester and member of VFW, said that the VFW members were not aware of the need for this wall. He suggested that R. McAuliffe attend the meeting of the VFW on April 12, 2016. He suggested that a more suitable project may be for the upgrading of the electrical system on the Green.

Arthur Liverant, spoke as a Colchester resident, member of the Colchester Historical Society and a member of the Bacon Academy Trustees, said he respected R. McAuliffe for his endeavors, but he could not support this project because the Town Green is in the historic district. He said cars should not be driving on the green and the retaining wall would not be historically correct.

Jean Smith, Colchester resident, said that she would not like to see any further construction around the monument, and suggested that the drainage issue be resolved near the monument as an Eagle Scout project. She also suggested that a landscaping project around Cragin Court be considered.

John Jones, liaison from the Board of Selectmen, suggested the upgrading of the electrical system on the Town Green as an alternative project.

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Stanley Stefanowicz
TOWN CLERK

Speaking in Rebuttal to those who spoke in Opposition

R. McAuliffe, applicant, explained that the Eagle Scout project requires him to get other Scouts involved and the improvement of the electrical system would require professional help.

Mark McAuliffe, the applicant's father, said that the electrical project would be too much as an Eagle Scout project.

J. Paggioli, Public Works Director, asked if historically correct materials were used, if the retaining wall could be built. He also suggested other possible projects including a handicap access for fishing on the Ruby Cohen property.

Speaking in Rebuttal to those who spoke in Favor

Chairman Sharon explained the historic value of the Town Green and that the Town Green should reflect its uses between the Revolutionary War and the Civil Wall.

Motion by: S. Stefanowicz
to close the Public Hearing
Second by: L. Akerman
Vote: Unanimous by those present

6. NEW APPLICATIONS

- A. HDC#16-002 – Ryan McAuliffe, applicant/Town of Colchester, owner of property located on Town Green. Application for a Certificate of Appropriateness for improvement of the Civil War monument by constructing a wall around its base with a set of steps. Assessor Map # 16 Lot # 048-001.

Discussion took place regarding the application. J. Adams asked the applicant how the denial of this application would affect his Eagle project time line. R. McAuliffe explained that he had time, but wanted to accomplish this project before beginning his college application process.

Motion by: E. Sharon
to deny this application
Second by: L. Akerman
Vote: Unanimous by those present

7. OLD BUSINESS – None

8. NEW BUSINESS - None

9. COMMUNICATIONS – None

10. ENFORCEMENT OFFICER'S REPORT – None

11. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by: E. Sharon
to adjourn this meeting.
Second by: L. Akerman
Vote: Unanimous by those present

Chairman Sharon adjourned the meeting at 7:32 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Gail N. Therian, Clerk