

Minutes of the North Cove Historic District Commission Spring Meeting  
Saybrook Town Hall  
April 5, 1988/7:30

Members Present: Suzie Cole, Bill Swdyne, Shelley Wehrly, Lynn Wardlaw,  
and Bill Brazicki.

Chairwomen Suzie Cole called the meeting to order at 7:40 p.m.

Shelley Wehrly read the minutes of the previous meeting and it was moved  
by Bill Swdyne and seconded by Emily Eldridge to accept the minutes  
as read.

Chairwoman Cole introduced Bill Brazicki as our new "Outside the District"  
alternate member of the commission. He replaces Witt Anderson.

OLD BUSINESS: In regard to posted "No Parking" signs: (A)  
Chairwomen Cole read a letter from First Selectwoman, Barbara Maynard,  
stating the guidelines which are legally enforceable for all road signs.  
If we are to have posted road signs within the district, they must meet  
these standards.

In regard to "Realtor Signs": (B)  
Chairwoman Cole reported that Town Attorney Michael Cronin has counsel-  
led the North Cove Historic District Commission that it would be un-  
constitutional to prohibit the use of "Realtor Signs". After general  
discussion concerning the signs, Shelley Wehrly moved that the Special  
Projects Committee look into having specific design guidelines for  
"Realtor Signs". Motion seconded by Steve Wardlaw.

In regard to Newspaper Receptacles and Mailboxes: (C)  
Jud Cole suggested we look into the appearance of newspaper receptacles  
and mailboxes within the district. All present agreed that they are not  
in keeping with the flavor of the district.

Several homeowners have pursued the matter on their own. After asking  
for the receptacles to be removed, and receiving no action, the owners  
removed the boxes on their own and informed the newspapers that the  
papers must be delivered to their door, or the homeowner would cancel  
the subscription. This has worked well.

Jack Schneider suggested that we circulate the minutes of this meeting  
to every homeowner in the district requesting we each be responsible  
for taking action to remove our own receptacles. It was unanimously  
agreed that this be done.

In regard to Underground Utilities: (D)  
Lynn Wardlaw gave a report on the pursuit of underground utilities.  
Report is attached. She suggested that the district try to get listed  
on the National Register for Historic Districts.

2-8 cc

Mrs. Suzy Cole  
President,  
North Cove Historic District Commission  
Old Saybrook, CT

A Report On The Feasibility Of Underground Utility Services  
For The Historic District

At the meeting of the Commission on October 8, 1987, Mr. Hildreth suggested that the possibility of underground utility services should be examined. This is a preliminary report outlining the requirements for "undergrounding".

On 12 October, 1987, I met with Mr. Jack O'Connor, the field engineer of Connecticut Light & Power, who visited the area for a tentative survey. The proposal outlined to Mr. O'Connor was for the provision of complete underground utilities for North Cove Road and Cromwell Place; most of the inner streets of Saybrook Point already have underground utilities. Mr. O'Connor pointed out that Church Street would also have to be included with Cromwell Place. Unfortunately, the process for undergrounding an existing area is laborious and expensive. Below is an outline of the process.

A. The request for conversion of services must come from an agency, municipality or some organization which will be responsible for all costs and which can provide coordination for ALL services (power, telephone and cable TV).

B. A signature list, containing the signatures of 100% of the affected customers must be attached to the proposal. This is because the individual customers are responsible for contracting for, and paying for, underground connections from the service lines to the house. It is estimated that this will cost \$1,000 to perhaps \$2,000 per customer. There are about 70 houses in the proposed area which would require this. Customers with existing underground connections would not be required to do this.

C. A check for the full amount of the complete conversion must accompany the request. The power company assumes all responsibility for trenching, wiring, re-landscaping, etc. Mr. O'Connor estimated that the project as outlined above would cost \$250,000 for the power company (and perhaps \$50,000 for the other services). The money MUST be paid up-front; it cannot be amortized in the individuals' utility bills. This amounts to approximately \$5,000 to \$7,000 per household in the area.

D. Easements would be required for the transformer pads, which would be in roughly the same locations as the existing pole transformers.

E. The good news is that the area could install decorative street lighting after the services were converted.

Mr. O'Connor stressed that the entire area does not have to be done at the same time. Certain portions, such as North Cove Road, or Cromwell Place/Church Street could be done separately, although the greatest reliability would come from doing everything at once, since this would allow CL&P to provide more than one power "input" in case of trouble.

I contacted the office of our representative, Samuel Gejdenson, regarding the possibility of some offsetting federal grants. They did not believe that there were any, but they are researching the possibility.

The governor's office was also called, but there was even less encouragement from that quarter.

From this, it seems that if we want underground services, we will have to pay for and coordinate the operation ourselves, unless the town will assist.

October 15, 1987

Lynne Wardlaw

Standing Committee on Whatever Needs To Be Done