

NORTH COVE HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION
PUBLIC HEARING
JUNE 13, 2000

JUN 15 2000

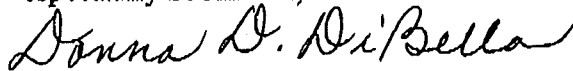
The North Cove Historic District Commission opened its Public Hearing on June 13, 2000 at 7:10 m in the library of the Sheffield Street School. Commissioners present were: Janet Foisie Chairman, Henri David Vice-Chair, Donna D. DiBella Clerk, Carol Maxwell, Kathy Dubuc and alternates: Leighton Lee and David Grey. The minutes of the previous meeting were read and accepted.

Two letters of correspondence against the proposed Rimkus dock were read. They were from the OSHS and Bill Phillips and Barbara Smith respectively. Chairman Foisie briefly brought the group up to date on the dock project. She stated she was changing the agenda for the evening and proceeded to introduce Atty. Michael Cronin. The commission asked the town for legal support and Atty. Cronin was asked by the town to represent the Commission at a recent Status Conference at DEP. He proceeded to explain the role of a status hearing. It was scheduled by the DEP in order that the Commission and the applicant would come to some agreement on the status of the dock. DEP has still not finally approved anything. The hearing officer, Jean Delmarggio, left the room and allowed the parties to discuss their differences freely. Atty. Cronin did note that the Waterfront Comm. had approved the project as well as the Army Corps. The result of the hearing was that the applicant made three concessions: deleted the boatlift, lowered the pilings from 12' to 9' and shortened the dock to 67' from 105'. He then discussed the legal issues involved. The NCHDC has the right to control type, scale, materials and architectural features of the dock. According to our regulations, the commission does not have the right to deny the building of a dock. Atty. Cronin answered questions from those in attendance. John Price asked about the Public Hearing to be held by DEP. Atty. Cronin told everyone it was to be held in Old Saybrook and no final date had been agreed upon. In addition, a list was available for anyone who wanted to remove his or her names from those who signed requesting DEP's Public Hearing. Even if all but one name still existed on the list, the DEP would be obligated to have the hearing. Barbara Smith stated that neither she nor her husband would be willing to remove their names from the list. No one signed the list to remove his or her name. Someone asked at 67' what the depth of the water was. Atty. Cronin referred to Gary Sharpe, the applicant's engineer. His answer was approximately 2' varying with higher or lower tides. A pulley system may be a possibility for a boat access. Atty. Cronin looked into the zoning laws in town and found that they are not involved in the building of a dock. The town has no "Harbor Management Plan" in place at present. If it did, DEP would have to comply with the plan. The applicant's relationship with his neighbors is something that will or will not be resolved by the applicant and neighbors themselves. One neighbor asked Mr. Rimkus if he was planning to remain in the neighborhood. He answered yes. Atty. Cronin ended the conversation looking for direction from the Commission to do one of three things: Continue to oppose the application (which may end up in an appeal by the applicant and ultimately go to court. Support the project or remain neutral at this time. Janet Foisie agreed to call Mike Cronin tomorrow to report the decision of the Commission.

The Clerk read the legal notice and Steve Hallahan then presented on behalf of the Genter's at 55 North Cove Road. The footprint will not change to the 1700 Gambrel Colonial. A door will be removed from the Southwest corner and be replaced with a true-divided light window to match existing. The West elevation will change to a true hip roof. Roofing material will match existing with low-pitched roof being of copper panel. True divided light wooden windows will be used replacing existing. There being no further comments or questions, the public hearing was adjourned at 8:10pm.

The Executive Session was opened at 8:11pm. The Genter project was unanimously approved. The Commission agreed to remain neutral on the Rimkus dock proposal. Janet Foisie will call Atty. Cronin to advise him of our position tomorrow. The Executive Session was closed at 8:22pm.

Respectfully Submitted,



Donna D. DiBella
Clerk