

NORTH COVE HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION

ANNUAL SPRING MEETING

MINUTES APRIL 10, 2002

APR 11 2002

The Annual Spring Meeting of the North Cove Historic District Commission was called to order at 7pm by Vice-chair Kathy Dubuc. Commissioners present were Robert Welsh, Donna D. DiBella, Clerk, Randi Bradbury, and Patricia Osborne, Alternate. Commissioner Bradbury read the minutes of the previous meeting held on March 21, 2002. Two additions were made to the minutes. Kathy Dubuc wanted the minutes to reflect her request to postpone the Public Hearing of March 21, 2002 and that she voted with "reservation" in unanimously passing the Manafort project at 135 North Cove Road. A motion was made and seconded to include the additions.

The Clerk read the legal notice. Commissioner DiBella noted under old business that she called Hal Cowles and spoke to him concerning the lampposts on his front property. He has already lowered the wattage of the lights from 60 to 40. It is very dark in the front yard and he feels the lighting is necessary especially for safety issues. The Commission agreed to be certain his Certificate of Appropriateness was properly filled out so that all neighbors comply with the requirements of the NCHDC.

A previously approved pergola (in size only) submitted by Mary and Jeffrey Meotti of 103 North Cove Road was further discussed. The size was approved in the fall of 2001 however the materials and design were presented by Jeffery Meotti and subject to approval by the commission. Columns will be 6x6 pressure treated wrapped in cedar with a raised panel. Crossboards will be either cedar or mahogany 1x3. It will be completely painted white. In addition, the Meotti's requested the replacement of existing stairs on the West Side of their home. They will be pressure treated 2x12 stringers with pelope risers and treads. After several questions by the commissioners, both Meotti projects were unanimously approved.

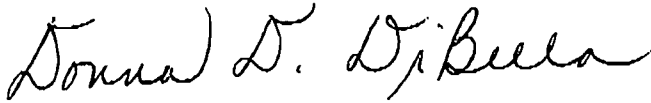
Under new business, Commissioner Bradbury reported that she spoke to Mike Pace to ask him if the town would allow the commission to display applications for certificates of appropriateness at Town Hall. In displaying this information, all residents of the NCHDC would have access to projects currently before the commission requiring public hearings. Selectman Pace wants it clear that the information is for viewing only and neither he nor other town employees are available to discuss the application. The commission agreed to provide this information and note in all legal notices. Abruptly at 7:25pm Vice-chair Dubuc left the meeting requesting Commissioner Osborne finish. The remaining commissioners stated they were not finished with the business of the hearing and Vice-chair Dubuc stated, "personal priorities must take precedent".

The remaining commissioners expressed concern. Commissioner Bradbury stated that as a new member she wanted to see the same process in place for all neighbors. She feels that contact should be made with Atty. Michael Cronin. Her suggestion is that all commissioners be briefed in the form of a training session so that they all understand their obligations and the process. Commissioner Welsh agreed it would be better for the commission to have something like this take place with some regularity especially for new members. Commissioner Osborne further discussed her concern when commissioners are unable to maintain their objectivity. Commissioner DiBella referred to a newspaper article in which she felt a commissioner blatantly abused the public trust by voting and it being a direct conflict of interest. She referred to Article VII of the By-laws of the NCHDC. The commissioners decided to make contact with Michael Cronin for direction to avoid similar related problems. An inquiry to evaluate the NCHDC ethics rules and whether they are consistent with the town of Old Saybrook's ethics rules was mentioned. The Clerk agreed to make contact with the town attorney to inquire about the above and whether the NCHDC ethic's rules meet the highest standards.

Further, under new business, Commissioner Welsh asked if people outside the NCHDC could serve on the commission. Reference was made to Sec.-147c(d). It states that one or more members of the historic district commission shall reside in an historic district. Commissioners outside the district may be asked to serve as long as they are registered to vote in Old Saybrook and hold no salaried municipal office. Commissioner Welsh agreed to re-visit Michael Pace regarding the yellow line down the center of No. Cove Road. After an initial fall meeting, the Selectman agreed to speak to the issue again this spring. He would be willing to see if the money was in the budget to remove the line.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15pm.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Donna D. DiBella". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the typed name.

Donna D. DiBella, Clerk