

HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION MINUTES FOR JUNE 3, 2009

Members Present: Chairman Lynne Langlois, Chris Kimberly, Paul Deysenroth and Neil Horner

Members Absent: Roland Poirer, Nikki Bleifeld and one vacancy

Guests: Cynthia Williams (Town of Weston and Chairman of Beautification Committee) and Marilyn Kirschner (Norfield Fire Dept.)

Meeting called to order at 8:00 p.m. by Chairman Lynne Langlois.

Lynne stated Chris Kimberly is appointed in absence of Nikki Bleifeld.

1. This was a public hearing on an application from the Town of Weston to install a sign over the Norfield Fire Department ambulance bays. Ms. Kirschner presented photos and stated the Emergency Medical Services would like to put their name on the building where there is no sign. Ms. Williams expressed it would be good for the public to see an EMS sign on the building.

Paul Deysenroth moved to grant a Certificate of Appropriateness to the EMS. Neil Horner seconded motion. All in favor 3-0. Chris Kimberly was absent at time of vote.

This was a public hearing on an application from the Town of Weston to erect a split rail fence which has already been erected along the southern border of the Onion Barn property. Ms. Williams stated she was not aware the Onion Barn was in the Historic District prior to erecting the fence. The Beautification Committee has been interested in taking care of town properties and making them looking better. The Onion Barn was a project they started last year by planting grass and trees. She stated every weekend there is garbage all around the barn and cars parked all over the grass. The committee spoke with First Selectman Bliss and determined a split rail fence would be most attractive. Ms. Williams stated monies were left from people and put into a specific fund for the beautification of the town which some monies was put toward the fence. The commission discussed the boundaries in the historic district location of the Onion Barn. Ms. Williams stated the Booster Barn committee has also expressed interest in helping with this ongoing problem.

Chris stated the Town should have come before the Historic District Commission prior to putting up the fence. In doing so, historically the fence should have been a stone wall instead of a split rail fence. Lynne stated the board fence at the Jarvis House is the appropriate for the age of the house.

Paul stated the Town approved paving the driveway at the Jarvis House and put the fence up without the approval of the Historic District Commission first.

Ms. Williams stated she would like to keep the area around the Onion Barn attractive and inquired about possibly adding a picnic table or bench. Lynne stated she would not have chosen that style of fence as the first choice but the materials is appropriate which will age in a few years and look better. Lynne recommended use bleach and transparent stain to preserve the life of the fence. The commission discussed the decision of granting a COA for the useful life of the fence and not to be rebuilt until a future application. Ms. Williams stated the town will be responsible for the lifelong maintenance or repair of the fence.

Lynne recommended place a stipulation on the fence that may not be rebuilt without applying for a new Certificate of Appropriateness. Chris motioned to accept the stipulation to the application. Paul seconded motion. All in favor 4-0.

Paul motioned to grant a Certificate of Appropriateness with this stipulation. Chris seconded motion. All in favor 4-0.

Ms. Williams stated the Beautification Committee would like to repair the stone wall at the Jarvis House but is very costly. Paul stated the wall can be repaired to the integrity as to the way it was built and asked if the Dept. of Public Works can repair it since it is part of town property.

2. Approval of minutes of the December meeting: Paul made a motion to accept the December 3rd, 2008 minutes. Chris seconded motion. All in favor 4-0.
3. Old Business: Chris reported on a homeowner removing a stone wall located on Lyons Plain Road and inquired if Building Inspector Rack Gleason reported on this. A cement front stoop and cement front walk was put in. The homeowner had appeared before the commission in the past and is aware of any hardscapes must be presented to the commission first for approval. Chris asked if the Building Inspector/Code Enforcer can present the homeowner a cease and desist order on all work and to appear before the commission and applies a Certificate of Appropriateness for what she is doing. Lynne will notify Rack Gleason of the situation that the homeowner will need to come before the commission and will be issued a cease and desist order. Lynne stated a copy of the regulations was given to the homeowner upon moving into the historic district area.

The commission discussed various properties in the Historic District that are currently doing renovations. Lynne stated she will send a letter to welcome new families into the district and notify them that if any changes or amendments are going to be made they need to come before the commission to apply for a Certificate of Appropriateness prior to the amendments to their properties. Lynne will email the letter to the commission for any changes before sending it out.

Chris asked if he should follow up with a letter to the Selectmen regarding the materials used to pave the driveway at the Jarvis House. The original plan was placing stone on top of hot asphalt. The commission discussed this and Chris will present a draft letter to the commission at the next meeting.

Chris stated Dr. Lieberman would like to eliminate the home occupation portion of his house which butts up to the historic district and solely have it occupied for doctors' offices.

4. New Business: The commission discussed a proposal for Weston village that includes the historic district.

5. Adjournment: Chris motioned to adjourn meeting. Paul seconded motion. All in favor 4-0.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:01 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Gloria Sundlof