

TOWN OF GROTON  
HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION  
APRIL 3, 2007 - 7:00 P.M.  
GROTON TOWN HALL ANNEX - COMMUNITY ROOM 2

Members Present: C. Nado, D. Seager, and E. Cole  
Alternates Present: N. Mitchell and D. Madden  
Staff: K. Quinn, S. Discordia

Chairman Nado called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Chairman Nado appointed Mitchell and Madden as a voting members.

I. PUBLIC HEARINGS

Cole read the call as it appeared in The Day.

HDC 07-09 – 5 Rathbun Place; Karen Scopino, owner/applicant; approval of new deck. PIN 261917204072

Karen Scopino presented to the Commission

Chairman Nado asked for public comments and there were none.

The following exhibits were presented:

- 2 pictures

HDC 07-10 – 13 Water Street; Tapley Investment Co., LLC, owner; Fred Stewart, applicant; install vent in back of building. PIN 261918306223

Fred Stewart presented to the Commission

Chairman Nado asked for public comments and there were none.

The following exhibits were presented:

- 2 pictures

HDC 07-11 – 7 Water Street; Dr. Tim Owens, owner/applicant; replacing window with door. PIN 261918307563

Mr. Owens presented to the Commission

Chairman Nado asked for public comments and there were none.

The following exhibits were presented:

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- 2 pictures

HDC 07-12 – 225 Library Street; Judith Hicks, owner; Peter Springsteel, applicant; one story addition. PIN 261917009529

Peter Springsteel presented to the Commission

Chairman Nado asked for public comments and there were none.

The following exhibits were presented:

- 2 pictures

HDC 07-13 –28 West Mystic Avenue; Suzanne Braley, owner; Peter Springsteel, applicant; restore 2 existing dormers. PIN 261805280480

Karen Scopino presented to the Commission

Chairman Nado asked for public comments and there were none.

The following exhibits were presented:

- 2 pictures

HDC 07-14 – 34 Buttonwood Lane; Robert & Susan Robotham, owners/applicants; new gazebo. PIN 261806382765

Robotham presented to the Commission

Chairman Nado asked for public comments and there were none.

The following exhibits were presented:

- 2 pictures

HDC 07-15 – 15 Gravel Street; Dan & Jane Brannegan, owners; Michael Driscoll, applicant; replace existing trim. PIN 261918412428

Mr. Driscoll presented to the Commission

Chairman Nado asked for public comments and there were none.

The following exhibits were presented:

- 2 pictures

The public hearings were closed at 7:08 p.m.

## II. DISCUSSION ON ITEMS OF PUBLIC HEARING

HDC 07-08 – 9 Rathbun Place

MOTION: To grant a Certificate of Appropriateness as submitted.

Motion made by Seager, seconded by Cole, so voted unanimously.

## III. PRE-APPLICATION HEARINGS

Karen Scopino of 5 Rathbun Place replaced a deck that was unsafe. She presented pictures of the new deck to the Commission. The Commission and owner discussed whether this should go to public hearing.

Seager stated that since the deck is already there it should be applied for and go through public hearing. If the Commission approves it the deck stays and if not the deck would have to be torn down and the owner would have to apply for a new deck.

Cole stated she did not like the deck at all.

Chairman Nado stated that he did not think the deck is appropriate considering the original was a much smaller deck and the new deck is over twice the size.

Mike Driscoll of the Roofing Store represented the owner of 15 Gravel Street. He stated that the owner would like to apply to replace the trim on the house. Mr. Driscoll showed the Commission pictures of the house. The owner would like to replace the gable siding with Hardi Plank in a fish scale design. Seager and Mitchell stated they would not approve of a fish scale design on a Greek revival style home.

Chairman Nado stated he was not in favor of replacing the wood trim and replacing it with Azec as it appeared to be in good shape. Chairman Nado stated that the house will weather differently if the deck is not replaced at the same time.

Seager stated he agreed and that he would prefer the trim and sills to stay wood and they appear to be in good shape. He also was not in favor of fish scale design on the gable.

Cole stated that the trim could be replaced as the siding is new and they would age appropriately.

Madden agreed and thought they should be replaced so they would age appropriately.

Mitchell did not approve of changing the wood trim to Azec.

Fred Stewart of 13 Water Street presented to the Commission. He needs to install a vent in the back of the building as he is opening a new food business. Mr. Stewart presented pictures of the restaurant to the Commission.

The Commission agreed that the vent would be appropriate on the back of the building and would not cause permanent damage to the structure.

Christopher Owens, representing his brother Dr. Tim Owens, owner of 7 Water Street. He would like to remove the window on the back porch and replace it with a door. Mr. Owens submitted before and after pictures of the changes.

Chairman Nado stated that he would prefer a narrower door either a 32 or 34 inch width.

The Commission did not have a problem with the changes.

Peter Springsteel represented the owners of 28 West Mystic Avenue. Mr. Springsteel stated the house was built in 1907. He distributed old photographs of the house. The house now has aluminum siding and a lot of the trim is missing. The owners would like to restore the two dormers to the original shape and materials. They would like to take the aluminum off the porch and reshingle it as well. Mr. Springsteel stated depending on the state of the shingle they might replace them with the same. Mr. Springsteel stated the owners would also like to replace the roof on the house and garage with architectural shingles. The owners will not be removing the rest of the aluminum siding on the house at this time.

The Commission thought it would be an improvement.

Peter Springsteel represented the owner, Judy Hicks, of 225 Library Street. The contemporary house was built in 1986. Mr. Springsteel stated the owner would like to add a small addition to the back corner of the house. A portion of the deck will remain.

The Commission did not have a problem with the addition.

Peter Springsteel represented the owners of 126 High Street. The owners would like to change the pre-approved canopy over the door to a gabled canopy.

The Commission did not like the proposed change.

Alden Debottis of 70 Clift Street would like to install barn style boards on her house. When the contractor removed the shingles to the barn it exposed 8" wide white birch panels. Ms. Debottis would like the same style on her house.

Chairman Nado stated he wasn't in favor of a residence having barn siding.

The Commission agreed that barn siding was not appropriate for this residence.

Bob Robotham of 34 Buttonwood Lane would like to build a gazebo on his property. The gazebo would be visible from Fort Rachel Place. The gazebo would be 8 feet square with a pitched roof. The material would be wood painted white. Mr. Robotham stated that Buttonwood Lane is a private road.

The Commission thought it would be appropriate but asked for a picture of the site from a public way brought to the public hearing.

#### IV. CORRESPONDENCE

Staff distributed a notice for the annual meeting and presentation awards and Common Ground brochure from the National Parks Department.

#### V. MINUTES

MOTION: To approve the minutes of February 20, 2007.

Motion made by Mitchell, seconded by Madden, so voted unanimously.

#### VI. OLD BUSINESS

Staff distributed a copy of the brochure that has been electronically submitted to the printer. Staff stated that there will be three or four different color variations to choose from. Staff stated that the State has given an extension for the deadline.

#### VII. NEW BUSINESS

The Commission stated that a house on Rowland Street, that used to be owned by the British Embassy, has new garage doors without an application. Staff stated they would investigate.

Chairman Nado stated they have a plague for Keyes. The Commission and staff discussed having a proclamation written up for Keyes as well.

#### VIII. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn at 9:06 p.m. made by Seager, seconded by Cole, so voted unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

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Elaine Cole, Secretary