

MINUTES  
TOWN OF GROTON  
HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION  
SEPTEMBER 18, 2007 - 7:00 P.M.  
GROTON TOWN HALL ANNEX - COMMUNITY ROOM 2

Members Present: C. Nado, E. Cole and N. Mitchell  
Alternates Present:  
Staff: P. Vandenbosch, S. Discordia

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

I. PUBLIC HEARINGS

Cole read the call as it appeared in The Day.

HDC 07-44 – 115 Library Street; Kent & Nichole Handfield, owners/applicants; install skylight. PIN 261917201622 (continued)

The applicant was not present. The Commission agreed to continue the public hearing to the next regularly scheduled meeting.

HDC 07-49 – 8 Orchard Lane; Pat Linehan, owner/applicant; new porch posts. PIN 261806295627

Pat Linehan presented drawings of new porch posts to the Commission. She stated she would box in the existing posts to be square 5 x 5 feet.

The Commission felt that the proposed porch posts were not appropriate to the house. The Commission stated the original posts which were torn down were more historically appropriate.

Chairman Nado asked for public comments and there were none.

The following exhibits were presented:

- 3 drawings

HDC 07-50 – 14 West Mystic Avenue; Michael & Lynda McLaughlin, owners/applicants; reinstall original windows in different configuration. PIN 261805290156

Mr. McLaughlin submitted photos of the house to the Commission. He showed the Commission where the windows will be placed. He has moved the back door and will put in three new steps to it.

The Commission thought the changes were historically appropriate to the house and district.

Chairman Nado asked for public comments and there were none.

The following exhibits were presented:

- 6 pictures

The public hearings were closed at 7:30 p.m.

## II. DISCUSSION ON ITEMS OF PUBLIC HEARING

HDC 07-44 – 115 Library Street

MOTION: To continue the public hearing until the next regularly scheduled meeting.

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

HDC 07-49 – 8 Orchard Lane

MOTION: To grant a Certificate of Appropriateness as submitted.

Motion made by Mitchell, none in favor, three opposed (Mitchell, Nado and Cole).

HDC 07-50 – 14 West Mystic Avenue

MOTION: To grant a Certificate of Appropriateness as submitted.

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

## III. PRE-APPLICATION HEARINGS

Rod Desmarais presented to the Commission a drawing showing the parking area behind the TIFT building. He stated he discussed changes with the Planning Department. He stated one side of the parking lot would have fence 6 feet high as required by the Planning Commission. Mr. Desmarais stated the Planning Commission is concerned about headlights from cars in the parking lot disturbing the residence next door. Mr. Desmarais showed the Commission another area that the Planning Commission is requesting a 6 foot high, solid fence in the parking lot. The Commission was not in favor of a fence 6 feet high and suggested a shorter more picket style fence.

Mr. Desmarais stated that the lights in the Town Hall Annex parking lot were suitable for the parking behind the TIFT building. The Commission discussed round versus the square lamp shade.

Mr. Desmarais discussed the bollards he would like to install in back of the TIFT building. He stated the Planning Commission would allow the bollards to be 7 to 8 feet apart and would approve of wooden bollards instead of the granite. Mr. Desmarais stated the height of the bollards would be 3 to 4 feet. The Commission preferred the height to be 3 feet.

Mr. Desmarais showed drawings of the awning and changes to the windows in the covered walkway at 23-25 West Main Street. He showed a drawing with elevations of the proposed roof plan for the building.

Mr. Desmarais discussed his proposed lower pitch roof for his garage at 81 High Street. Mr. Desmarais stated that he is not building the garage according to the previously approved application and he has applied for the changes and the public hearing will be October 2, 2007. He showed pictures of different homes in his neighborhood showing a lower pitch roof. Mr. Desmarais stated that the low pitch roof garage matches the low pitch roof on his addition. He also showed pictures of garages with low pitched roofs within 5 blocks of his house.

Mitchell and Cole stated they would like to take a look at his property.

Skip Torroca and his architect showed the Commission drawings of 21 West Main Street the former 41 Degrees North Restaurant. The architect showed two different proposed drawings for the new restaurant. One option had a sloped roof and the other had a flat roof. The Commission preferred the flat roof and the sills with flower boxes. The architect separated the windows as suggested. The front door will be wider for handicapped accessibility and recessed 8 feet. There will be a sign on the building and a hanging sign. The windows will be fixed and will not open.

Marcia Schaller the owner 42A & B on New London Road would like to put in a picket fence along the back to the stone wall for a total of 190 feet. She is proposing a 4 foot vinyl picket fence. The Commission and applicant discussed different options for the fence. The Commission stated that a simple styled picket fence would be more appropriate to the district. The Commission stated they would consider a vinyl fence in this location as it is 100 feet from New London Road although they would prefer a wooden picket fence no more than 3 feet high.

IV. CORRESPONDENCE - None

V. MINUTES

MOTION: To approve the minutes of August 21, 2007.

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

VI. OLD BUSINESS - None

VII. NEW BUSINESS - None

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn at 9:40 p.m. made by Mitchell, seconded by Cole, so voted unanimously.

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Elaine Cole, Secretary  
Historic District Commission

Prepared by Sheila Discordia, Office Assistant II