

MINUTES
TOWN OF GROTON
HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION
OCTOBER 16, 2007 - 7:00 P.M.
GROTON TOWN HALL ANNEX - COMMUNITY ROOM 2

Members Present: C. Nado, R. Seager, K. Vaughn and N. Mitchell
Alternates Present:
Staff: K. Quinn, S. Discordia

Chairman Nado called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

I. PUBLIC HEARINGS

Seager read the call as it appeared in The Day.

HDC 07-52 – 81 High Street; Rod Desmarais, owner/applicant; roof pitch and window change to garage. PIN 261918302416 (continued)

Rod Desmarais presented to the Commission. He handed out a packet to each member. Mr. Desmarais reviewed the information contained in the packet.

Vaughn stated that this garage is not appropriate to the historic district. Vaughn stated that it wasn't just the roof pitch but the trim as well as other details which added up to it not being appropriate.

Chairman Nado stated he was concerned that this garage is a totally different structure than the previously approved application for a garage. He stated he did not have a problem with the windows and doors but the roof pitch and trim were not appropriate to the historic district.

Seager stated he was satisfied with the narrow planked siding and he submitted pictures of other homes in the neighborhood that had similar siding. He stated that he was most concerned about the shallowness of the roof pitch of the garage.

Chairman Nado asked for public comments and there were none.

The following exhibits were presented:

- 8 drawings
- 12 pictures
- 2 petitions
- 1 tabbed packet

HDC 07-55 – 8 Orchard Lane; Pat Linehan, owner; K. Van Seter, applicant; replace porch columns. PIN 261806295627

Ms. Van Seter presented to the Commission. She showed old photos of the original porch posts and stated that the owner will replicate these posts.

The Commission thought it would be appropriate.

Chairman Nado asked for public comments and there were none.

The following exhibits were presented:

- 1 drawing
- 2 pictures

HDC 07-56 – 3 Orchard Lane; Edward Janus, owner/applicant; replace existing porch window with original. PIN 261806297929

Ed Janus presented to the Commission. He showed a picture of the window he would like to replace with the original window that was previously there.

Chairman Nado asked for public comments.

Karen Van Seter stated she was in favor of this application.

The following exhibits were presented:

- 1 picture

The public hearings were closed at 8:00 p.m.

II. DISCUSSION ON ITEMS OF PUBLIC HEARING

HDC 07-52 – 81 High Street

MOTION: To grant a Certificate of Appropriateness as submitted.

Motion made by Seager, seconded by Mitchell, none in favor, four opposed.

HDC 07-55 – 8 Orchard Lane

MOTION: To grant a Certificate of Appropriateness as submitted.

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

HDC 07-56 – 3 Orchard Lane

MOTION: To grant a Certificate of Appropriateness as submitted.

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

III. PRE-APPLICATION HEARINGS

Adria & Brett Barnes of 20 High Street presented to the Commission. They would like to enclose the existing 17' x 6.5' side deck running between the airlock and gazebo on the north side of the house. The trim will match the adjacent gazebo and siding will match existing cedar shingles of house. They would like to enclose it for a recycling area and a pantry.

The Commission stated they would prefer the enclosure to be recessed back by at least 4" to create a "shadow" line.

Susan Kietzman of 25 West Mystic Avenue would like to construct a chimney on the side of her house. She showed the Commission pictures of her home. The Commission suggested that brick fireplaces on the outside of homes built in early 1900's may not be suitable. The Commission also stated that the chimney may have to be very high to meet code. The Commission requested to scale drawings of what the finished chimney would like on the house.

Barry Watrous, representing Betsy Eicholz of 5 Rathbun Place, presented to the Commission. He stated he was applying for a two story deck that was built without a certificate of appropriateness. He stated he would dress/bulk up the posts holding up the deck.

Seager stated that it isn't just the posts that concern him, but the fact that there is a large deck on the second story of a Greek revival house.

The Commission requested scaled drawings of the changes he would like to make.

Todd Brady presented to the Commission regarding 31 Water Street. He showed the Commission drawings of the proposed building. The Commission stated they would like to see a gravel parking lot. The Commission was concerned over how big the buildings were and how they obstruct the view of the water from a public way. The Commission suggested Mr. Brady remove a story from the building. The Commission also stated they would not be in favor of protruding balconies on the back of the proposed building.

Sherri and Phil Rowe of 415 Noank Road along with architect Peter Springsteel presented to the Commission. Mr. Springsteel stated they would like to construct an addition on the rear of the building. The Commission was concerned with the dormer on the proposed addition.

Seager stated that this home is a bungalow and are traditionally small houses. He was concerned that an addition would not be appropriate to this structure.

IV. CORRESPONDENCE - None

V. MINUTES

MOTION: To approve the minutes of October 2, 2007.

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

VI. OLD BUSINESS - None

VII. NEW BUSINESS - None

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn at 10:00 p.m. made by Mitchell, seconded by Seager, so voted unanimously.

Richard Seager, Acting Secretary
Historic District Commission

Prepared by Sheila Discordia, Office Assistant II