

TOWN OF GROTON  
HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION  
FEBRUARY 6, 2007 - 7:00 P.M.  
GROTON TOWN HALL ANNEX - COMMUNITY ROOM 2

Members Present: K. Vaughn, C. Nado (7:59 p.m.) and R. Seager  
Alternates Present: N. Mitchell  
Staff: K. Quinn, S. Discordia

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

I. PUBLIC HEARINGS

Acting Chairman Vaughn appointed Mitchell as a voting member.

Seager read the call as it appeared in The Day.

HDC 06-68 – 19 Gravel Street; Melanie & Todd Drevo, owners; Chuck Canavan, applicant; reconstruct a widows walk. PIN 261918412646 (cont'd)

Chuck Canavan submitted a handout to the Commission. The applicant would like to replicate the widows walk that was originally on the house. He showed a photograph depicting the old widows walk. The widows walk would be made out of mahogany and primed and painted. The original widows walk was approximately 32-34” in height and they are proposing a 36” height according to state building codes.

Mr. Canavan stated that the cap of the actual rail will be beveled about 2” facing the street to give an illusion of a shorter railing. The hatchway will be wooden with a slope to help rainwater run off.

The Commission stated that the replication was very close to the original widows walk as could be determined by the old photograph.

Acting Chairman Vaughn asked for public comments and there were none.

The following exhibits were presented:

- 2 pictures
- 2 drawings

HDC 07-02 – 21 Grove Avenue; Bruce Blye, owner; Peter Springsteel, applicant; change entrance. PIN 261914430442

Staff stated the applicant has submitted a letter requesting a continuance until the next regularly scheduled meeting.

HDC 07-03 – 22 Fort Rachel Place; Douglas Hersant, owner; David Hersant, applicant; construct new fence. PIN 261806382992

David Hersant presented to the Commission. They would like to build a fence around the property on the west side of the road. He submitted 9 area photographs of fences in the immediate area that represent what he would like on the property. The fence will be 4 feet tall and built on top of a retaining wall about 4 feet high. The fence will be set back 2 feet from the retaining wall. The fence will be 55 feet in length north to south and then follows the contours of the driveway. The fence is designed to be 4 feet and taper to 3 feet as it runs to the mailbox and driveway.

Acting Chairman Vaughn stated that it was difficult to understand what the applicant was requesting with the documentation submitted. The Commission and the applicant discussed the dimensions of the proposed fence.

Acting Chairman Vaughn asked for public comments and there were none.

The following exhibits were presented:

- 1 drawing
- 19 pictures

The public hearing was closed at 7:47 p.m.

## II. DISCUSSION ON ITEMS OF PUBLIC HEARING

HDC 06-68 – 19 Gravel Street

MOTION: To grant a Certificate of Appropriateness as submitted.

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

HDC 07-02 – 21 Grove Avenue

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

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

HDC 07-03 – 22 Fort Rachel Place

MOTION: To grant a Certificate of Appropriateness with the stipulation that the board and batten fence will be set back from the face of the retaining wall two feet and be 69 feet long.

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

### III. PRE-APPLICATION HEARINGS

Carol Kanabis of 32-34 West Main Street introduced her architect Jim Gibbs who is going to assist with the changes that need to be made of her restaurant windows and the cooler. Acting Chairman Vaughn stated that they need accurate to scale drawings depicting the windows that were originally approved. Mr. Gibbs stated that there are aspects of the original drawing that were not clear.

Seager stated that the windows that are in the restaurant now look like doors and that was the one thing they did not want. Acting Chairman Vaughn stated that the windows are placed higher than drawn in the original application and the location of the windows is not correct.

Seager stated to get an existing as built of what is there now and start from there.

Mr. Gibbs stated he will bring in representation of the windows for discussion. Mr. Gibbs asked the Commission if they would like new applications for the sign and cooler or modify the original application. The Commission stated they are new applications.

Jerry Upright the owner of 32-34 West Main Street property stated that he was contacted regarding issues with the second floor renovations. Mr. Upright submitted current photos of the changes to the façade of the second floor. The Commission expressed that the replacement windows were not approved and explained that the windows probably need to be specially made.

The Commission suggested that Mr. Upright locate a local builder who is familiar with the historic district and would be familiar with spandrel windows as they are quite common in the area.

John Porter representing Mystic River Historical Society submitted pictures of the archive building and would like to replace the cedar shingles on the roof with architectural asphalt shingles. He stated they would pick a color that is closest to the color of the current weathered shingles. Rustic Slate is the color they chose.

The Commission agreed that the choice of shingle was appropriate for a building built in 1983.

John Bobinski would like to reshingle his roof at 2 Elm Street. He would like to reshingle with asphalt shingles.

The Commission requested he bring in a brochure showing the color of choice at his public hearing.

Mark Tiesinga of 39 High Street would like to remove the deck and install a blue stone patio behind the house. He would like to extend the driveway and add a retaining wall and a cedar 6 foot privacy fence. He would also like to put up a post and beam shed.

The Commission stated the changes would be beneficial to the property and asked that he bring in detailed plans and pictures to the hearing.

Dawn Calonni of 281 High Street would like to build a shed. She explained that she demolished the old shed. The shed will be 10 x 12 with one door.

#### IV. CORRESPONDENCE

Staff distributed the Preservation News and CCM is holding a workshop on Tuesday, February 27, 2007. It is a half day seminar with topics of managing debates and public hearings. Mitchell and Vaughn stated they may attend.

#### V. MINUTES

MOTION: To approve the minutes of January 16, 2007.

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

#### VI. OLD BUSINESS

Seager read the material for the new Historic District pamphlet to the Commission members. Commission and staff discussed the brochure.

#### VII. NEW BUSINESS - None

#### VIII. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn at 9:20 p.m. made by Seager, seconded by Mitchell, so voted unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

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Elaine Cole, Secretary