

RIDGEFIELD HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION
Lower Level Small Conference Room
Town Hall, 400 Main Street
Ridgefield, CT 06877
April 3, 2022

Policy: Historic District Commission meetings will be conducted under Roberts Rules of Order and all participants are expected to conduct themselves with dignity and treat all those present with respect, empathy and civility.

APPROVED SITE VISIT AND SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES

A site visit and special meeting of the Ridgefield Historic District Commission (“HDC”) was held at 104 Main Street on Sunday, April 3 2022, at 11:00 a.m.

The following members were present:

Dan O’Brien, Chair
Mark Blandford (Alternate for Briggs Tobin)
Rhys Moore
Sean O’Kane
Kam Daughters (Alternate for Harriet Hanlon)

AGENDA

The meeting was called to order by Mr. O’Brien at 11:01 a.m.

Mr. Aran Wiener, landscape designer and land architect for the project at 104 Main St. was present. He represented the Keane family in designing a swimming pool, decking & fencing.

Driveway Gate:

Mr. Wiener and the commission members met on the south side of the house, in front of the garage on the paved driveway. Mr. Wiener said there was a possible site change with the white picket fence gate crossing the paved driveway discussed this past week with the homeowner. This change would eliminate the 4 ft. black aluminum fencing from the garage to the house. Moving down the driveway, toward the middle of the house, Mr. Wiener said the white picket fence could now be installed to the East of the side house entrance, crossing the driveway and meeting with the deer fencing on the neighbor’s side. Mr. O’Kane asked if the fence would be in front or behind of the Dogwood tree by the side door and would it go to the property line. Mr. Wiener said the fence would be behind the tree and go to the property line. Mr. O’Kane asked if the tree was healthy. Mr. Wiener said it would be pruned. Ms. Daughters asked if the fence would end in the bushes. Mr. Wiener said they would have to move some bushes and add any plantings as necessary. Mr. Blandford asked that since there was a grade drop off, would the fencing move with the grade. Mr. Wiener said the 4 ft. fence would slope down accordingly. Mr. O’Kane asked if the picket gate would be a double gate, 8 ft. wide. Mr. Wiener agreed, said it would be wood, right on the edge and automatic. Mr. O’Kane asked if it would swing out. Mr. Wiener said yes, due to code. They would also have some Belgium block underneath, due to code.

Pool Area:

Mr. Wiener said the blue flags showed the proposed pool area. The current wood wall and steps would be removed and replaced by stone. Mr. Blandford noted that because the area was recessed several inches, the pool wouldn't be visible from the street. He asked if the walls would be the same height. Mr. Wiener said yes, the walls would remain the same height and the current bluestone patio slate would be reused. Mr. O'Brien asked if the other structures such as the wood pergola would be removed. Mr. Wiener said yes, they would be removed.

Fencing:

At the Northeast corner of the house, Mr. Wiener showed the commissioners the site of the proposed black aluminum 4 ft. fencing. Mr. Blandford asked if that fencing could match the white picket by the driveway. Mr. Wiener said he believed the homeowners would be open to matching.

Mechanicals:

Mr. Wiener said the mechanicals would be situated behind the garage, out of sight from Main Street.

Pool Fencing:

Mr. O'Brien asked about the sample material. Mr. Wiener said pool fencing would be similar to the garden fencing currently on the property but with netting. Similar to 351 Main Street. Mr. Wiener said it would be 6 ft., black with wire deer fence netting.

Mr. O'Kane asked about lighting. Mr. Wiener said there would be minimal lighting on the retaining wall and recessed in the pool. Mr. Blandford said the location appeared perfect.

Mr. Blandford moved and Ms. Daughters seconded a motion to approve the application as presented for a:

a) new recessed in-ground Gunitite swimming pool and stone patio, new wood picket fence between residence and property line (north and south of property) and new wood picket driveway gate across the paved driveway adjacent to existing garage or

b) new recessed in-ground Gunitite swimming pool and stone patio, new wood picket fence between the residence and property line (north of property) and new wood picket driveway gate across the paved driveway from the East of the side house entrance stretching out to meet the property line and a new black aluminum fence between the garage and the property line.

The above is subject to receipt of final plans showing placement of the driveway gate and specifications for the wood fence and metal fence. Motion passed 5-0.

Mr. Moore moved and Mr. Blandford seconded a motion to adjourn the Historic District Commission Meeting at 11:19 a.m. Motion passed by unanimous vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy L. Fields
Recording Secretary