



HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION
Town of Ridgefield, Connecticut
400 Main Street
Ridgefield, Connecticut 06877
www.ridgefieldct.org

APPROVED SITE VISIT AND SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday August 3, 2021

A site visit and special meeting was held at 127 Main Street which was open to the public on Tuesday, August 3, 2021, at 6:00 p.m.

The following members were present:

Dan O'Brien, Chair
Sean O'Kane
Mark Blandford (Alternate for Briggs Tobin)

Agenda

The purpose of the site visit and special meeting was to view the proposed exterior restoration changes of the cottage at 127 Main Street, hear and consider the Applicant's proposal thereof. The changes proposed are: 1) Relocate the entry door to the original location, 2) Replace the existing entry door with a small architecturally appropriate window, 3) Convert the rear enclosed porch back to an open air porch, and 4) Allow the contractor to place a sign on the front lawn.

Special Meeting

The special meeting was called to order by Mr. O'Brien at 6:01 p.m. and began with a walk of the site led by the Applicant and property owner Mrs. Nadia Blair.

The Commission members walked the property with Mrs. Blair who pointed out the original location of the entry door which was on the side of the house. She stated the house was built in the 1850's. Originally it was the Pastor's cottage before the 1st Congregational Church moved across the street. The cottage is a rustic simple structure, a salt box type. The replacement door will be period appropriate. The transom will have three lights, above a solid panel door.

For replacing the existing entry door, a 4 over 4 or 3 over 3 window, whichever architecturally matched was going to be used. It was noted that the windows on this side of the house looked original. Mr. S. O'Kane mentioned that a 3 over 3 would be fine. The top part could be used as an awning for ventilation.

The addition on the back of the cottage did not appear to be originally part of the interior of the house. However, they were looking to convert this porch from an 'interior' room to an open air porch. She had attached a sketch to the original application and elaborated in her tour. The door to the house looked quite heavy. Mr. S. O'Kane suggested that although it was a nice heavy door, if she changed it to glass, it would allow more light inside the house. Mrs. Blair mentioned that the porch railing and trim would be simplistic, as the cottage is a true saltbox.

Walking back around, the applicant mentioned the current vestibule would be converted to a bathroom. Although there was a full bathroom on the 2nd floor with two bedrooms, it would be better to have a bigger bathroom on the first floor than maintain the current small one tucked under the stairs.

Looking above the vestibule, Mr. Blandford mentioned that the windows should match 6 over 6 and what looked to be 28 inches. Mr. S. O'Kane said to use the same proportion as the lower windows. He asked about the foundation which looked cut. Mrs. Blair said it would be puttied up and landscaped around.

S. O'Kane moved and M. Blandford seconded a motion to approve the July 28, 2021 application as presented for the work on the cottage secondary dwelling: 1) relocation of the entry door to the original location; 2) replace the existing entry door with an architecturally appropriate window; and 3) convert the rear enclosed porch back to an open air porch. Motion passed 3-0.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:17 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Fields
Recording Secretary