

RIDGEFIELD HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION
Town Hall, 400 Main Street
Ridgefield, CT 06877
October 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.

UNAPPROVED 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 Monday, October 3, 2022, at 6:00 p.m.

The following members were present:

Dan O’Brien, Chair
Kam Daughters
Sean O’Kane
Rhys Moore
Sara Kaplan (alternate for Harriet Hanlon)
Marc Blandford (alternate)

AGENDA

104 Main Street - Change in fencing from prior approved fencing.

The meeting was called to order by Mr. O’Brien at 5:57 p.m. The Commission members were joined by Ms. Meghan Keane, the owner, and Mr. Aran Weiner, the landscape designer and landscape architect for the project. Mark Blandford joined the meeting at 6:00 p.m. and Mr. O’Brien recapped his opening remarks and when Mr. Moore joined the meeting at 6:05 p.m., Mr. O’Brien again summarized the discussion to that point.

Mr. O’Brien said the original submitted plans showed a black aluminum fence on the right side with a white picket fence on the left. (The plan dated 3/02/22 and revised on 3/28/22 from the original submission showed a black metal fence running from the back of the house to the garage and a wood fence from the back of the garage to the deer fence to the South.) On April 3rd, the meeting minutes showed approval was given for a new wood picket fence on the north and south side of the property (with a wood picket driveway gate across the paved driveway of the existing garage which was a change from the original plans that were submitted in March). Based on incorrect revised plans submitted by Landform Partners on 4/07/22, the issued Certificate of Appropriateness dated April 11, 2022 approved the revised plan from 4/07/22 which was for a new black aluminum picket fence on the northside and a wood picket fence and driveway gate on the southside which was not consistent with the resolution that was approved by the Commission at the April 3rd site visit/special meeting. However, the fence that was installed was a black aluminum fence on both the north and south sides of the property. The new application seeks to obtain approval of the installed fence as built.

Mr. O’Kane asked if the proposed black driveway gate was arched. Ms. Keane said it was arched. Ms. Keane said the gate would slide towards the house, with the motor located on the left side. Mr. Weiner said the plantings would be moved forward. Mr. O’Kane said the arch would look incongruous. He thought a straight-lined gate to match the fencing would look better. Ms. Keane said the left side had a slight arch too. Ms. Kaplan said on the left hand side, the fence was slightly arched, however she also opined that the straight look would be less

innocuous. Mr. O’Kane said 1) he had no objection to the metal. Black disappears; 2) Prefers the simplicity of a straight fence gate across. A hump would make it look warped. Ms. Daughters said she liked the white wood because it lends to the house. However, she does agree that the black does disappear. The straight look is also a seamless line. Mr. O’Kane said landscaping would also soften the look. Ms. Keane said she agreed with the straight across look for the gate. Mr. Weiner said he would address the landscaping. Mr. Moore said he didn’t like the black fence. He preferred the white picket fence. Mr. Blandford said he agreed with Mr. Moore. Mr. Blandford also said that is what had been approved in the original Site visit and special meeting of April 3, 2022. He always thought that it should be wood.

The following motion was made by Sean O’Kane and seconded by Sara Kaplan:

Approved the application as presented for the change in fencing material from wood to black metal fencing (front of the house), subject to the black metal driveway fence being straight across to match the related fence. Motion passed 4-1 with Ms. Daughters, Ms. Kaplan, Mr. O’Kane and Mr. O’Brien voting in favor and Mr. Moore opposed for his stated reasons.

Meeting was adjourned at 6:24 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy L. Fields
Recording Secretary