



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

APPROVED SITE VISIT AND SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES

Monday, May 24, 2021

A site visit and special meeting was held at 351 Main Street which was open to the public on Monday, May 24, 2021, at 5:30 p.m.

The following members were present:

Dan O'Brien, Chair
Briggs Tobin, Vice Chair
Rhys Moore
Sean O'Kane
Kam Daughters
Mark Blandford
Elizabeth DiSalvo

Agenda

Proposed exterior changes including changes and relocation of several windows and doors; removal of ADA ramp; addition of decorative railings; removal of existing fire escape; addition of walls at open lower level.

Site Visit

The site visit was called to order by Mr. O'Brien at 5:30 p.m. Mr. Steve March, an owner of the property and the Applicant, was present and conducted a tour of the exterior of the structure and the grounds and pointed out all of the proposed changes to the exterior of the building which he referenced to in the preliminary plans which had been submitted and were available during this site visit. He also highlighted additional items which have been added to the application including the addition of an attached garage to the rear of the structure in the southwest corner with a balcony on top; fencing in front and sides of the property; and removal of certain asphalt pavement which was shown on a preliminary landscaping plan made available to the Commission which also showed the proposed placement of fencing along the front of the property and on either side. Members of the Commission asked several questions regarding the proposed changes including the placement of shutters and the type and placement of the proposed fencing.

With respect to the landscaping plans, Mr. March pointed out that on the north side of the property with the Church's driveway along his property line and with the significant activity which takes place in the Church's parking lot, he and his co-owner Mr. Victor Melendez are greatly concerned with the privacy and security implications on the north side of the property. Accordingly, they are proposing as part of the landscaping plans to install a wood fence with lattice work on top similar in height and design as the current fence on the neighbor's property facing their property's south side. Commission members indicated that they understood those concerns. Given the proposed fence height, Mr. O'Kane expressed a concern that such fence not extend from the rear of the property towards Main Street no farther than the Church structure's southwest corner so that the view from Main Street of the Church and its large windows on its south side will not be obstructed by the fence. Mr. March was agreeable to this.

Mr. March also presented plans for a white picket wood fence along the front of the property which would be similar in design and height as the present similar picket fence located at 188 Main Street. Mr. March pointed out that there are a number of other picket fences on Main Street within the historic district.

Mr. O'Brien suggested that the Commission schedule a Special Meeting on Thursday, June 3, 2021, at 7:30 p.m. to hear the application and Mr. March agreed to the date and agreed to provide the Commission with updated plans prior to such meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Daniel J. O'Brien, Chair