

RIDGEFIELD HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION
Lower Level Large Conference Room
Town Hall, 400 Main Street
Ridgefield, CT 06877
September 22, 2016

APPROVED MINUTES

A regular meeting of the Ridgefield Historic District Commission (“HDC”) was held in the lower level large conference room of the Town Hall, 400 Main Street, Ridgefield, CT 06877, on Thursday, September 22, 2016, and beginning at 7:30 p.m.

The following members were present:

Daniel J. O’Brien, Chair
Joseph Gasperino
Sean O’Kane (Alternate – voting for Rhys Moore)

Absent:

Jim Hancock
Rhys Moore
Eric Pashley
Harriet Hanlon
Briggs I. Tobin

AGENDA

- 1) 258 Main Street (Aldrich Contemporary Art Museum) – Present design concept for new outdoor sign.
- 2) 44 King Lane – Extension and change in fence and addition of a basketball hoop and pole.
- 3) 207 Main Street (Jesse Lee Memorial Church) – Addition of an egress door and landing with steps to the south side of the Church building.
- 4) 267 Main Street - Restoration of certain windows

MEETING

Mr. Michael Knortz, a University of Connecticut Law student attended as a member of the public.

The Meeting was called to order by Mr. O’Brien at 7:30 p.m.

- 1) 258 Main Street (Aldrich Contemporary Art Museum) - Present design concept for new outdoor sign – Jacqueline Duke, Business Manager and Richard

Klein, Executive Director, were present to represent the Aldrich Contemporary Art Museum. They presented the latest version of the proposed sign. The new sign will be 8 inches narrower and 6 inches in thickness instead of the current 12 inches. There will be a sliding panel which will provide for a two-sided changeable message. The removable lower sections slide in and out on aluminum track integral to the sign cabinet.

The proposed sign is to be located in the same location as existing sign. The sign will have painted black text and “Aldrich Yellow” chevron logo. The logo wraps around the end of the sign furthest from the street.

The posts will be made out of white aluminum rather than the current ones that are made out of steel. The lighting will be on a timer. It is to be lit with LED uplights installed at and below lawn grade (one light for each side; each fixture 100W “warm white” 3000K color temperature). The lighting will be attached to existing underground power supply and activated by existing timer in the Museum’s basement.

The estimate is for the sign to cost \$6,000 from Bethel Sign. The museum has worked with Bethel Sign for a long time. An objective is to avoid a sandwich board look.

S. O’Kane indicated that per zoning regulations, the sign should not be more than 5 feet in height. He suggested that the Aldrich Museum personnel check with Richard Baldelli as to the town requirements. Richard Klein invited the Commission to see the demo of the sign when it is hooked up to the electrical cord.

Joe Gasperino moved and Sean O’Kane seconded a motion to approve as presented the proposed new sign for the Museum. The motion passed by a 3-0 vote.

- 2) **44 King Lane** – Extension and change in fence and addition of a basketball hoop and pole. Dr. Martin O’Malley and his wife and six children are the new residents at 44 King Lane. Chairman D. O’Brien pointed out how this is somewhat of an unusual situation since the changes have already been made and we are now considering them after the fact.

Dr. O’Malley stated that a fence was needed to get a Certificate of Occupancy (CO) to enable the real estate closing to occur. The previous owner came before the Historic District Commission on May 28, 2015. Installation of the fence was approved but it was not immediately installed. The plans for the fence were approved and they provided for a 4 ft. wooden fence with 1 foot of lattice work on the top. The basketball hoop was also installed without previous approval. The fence was eventually installed with no lattice on the top. Dr. O’Malley indicated that he had the fence extended on the stone wall running down the east side of the driveway due to its very steep drop-off and the danger it presented to his young children. Pictures of the site were passed around. Commission members

expressed the view that efforts should be made to make the existing fence less opaque. A grey color would be better than the brown wood look.

S. O’Kane suggested the use of vines climbing up the outside of the fence to make the fence somewhat less prominent. Dr. O’Malley agreed to have the fence treated with bleaching oil or some like treatment to lessen its visibility from the street as well as adding vine-type plantings along the fence.

Sean O’Kane moved and Joe Gasperino seconded a motion to approve as presented the extension of the existing fence and the addition of a basketball hoop and pole on the condition that such fence be treated with bleaching oil or like treatment to lessen its visibility from the street as well as adding vine-type plantings along the fence section on the east side of the driveway. Motion passed in a 3-0 vote.

- 3) **207 Main Street (Jesse Lee Memorial United Methodist Church)** - Addition of an egress door and landing with steps to the south side of the Church building. Peter Seirup came forward representing Jesse Lee Methodist Church. The goal is to make the church building more accessible by installation of a three-story elevator. The elevator will go from the lower level and then up to the choir room on the top floor. The addition over the sanctuary has been approved but that is not the construction project that the Church is going to do now. The Fire Department has required that an egress door be added for the elevator. There will be a bridge between the two buildings connecting the second floor. There is a stairway on the north side, but the Fire Department says that this is not sufficient. This new fire door and stairway will permit exit directly to the outside on the south side of the Church building. The brick will match the existing exterior brick.

Joe Gasperino moved and Sean O’Kane seconded a motion to approve as presented the addition of a proposed egress door and stairway on the south side of the Church. Motion passed in a 3-0 vote.

- 4) **267 Main Street** – Restoration of certain windows. This agenda item was deferred into next month’s meeting given that the applicant is the Commission Chair and, therefore, recused from the Commission’s consideration of the matter and due to the fact that with his recusal, there is not a quorum remaining at the meeting to consider his application.

J. Gasperino moved and S. O’Kane seconded a motion to adjourn the meeting of the Historic District Commission at 8:35 p.m. Motion passed by unanimous vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Janet L. Johnson