

RIDGEFIELD HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION
Lower Level Small Conference Room
Town Hall, 400 Main Street
Ridgefield, CT 06877
April 16, 2020

APPROVED MINUTES

A meeting of the Ridgefield Historic District Commission (“HDC”) was held via teleconferencing which was open to the public on Thursday, April 16, 2020, and beginning at 7:32 p.m.

The following members were present:

Dan O’Brien, Chair
Briggs Tobin, Vice Chair
Harriet Hanlon
Rhys Moore
Sean O’Kane
Mark Blandford
Kam Daughters

AGENDA

- 1) **236 Main Street – Hawley House** – Replacement of two rotted columns supporting the front porch overhang.
- 2) **250 Main Street** – Approval of installation of four storm windows.
- 3) **Commission Design Guidelines** – Review and discussion of draft guidelines.
- 4) **Commission’s Preservation Advisory Role** – Review and discussion.

MEETING

The meeting was called to order by Mr. O’Brien at 7:32 p.m.

- 1) **236 Main Street – Replacement of two rotted columns supporting the front porch overhang**

Mr. O’Brien welcomed Mr. Don Ciota of 236 Main Street to the meeting. Mr. Ciota presented his application for the replacement of two rotted columns supporting the front porch. These columns are round. Mr. Ciota said that Neal Hicks, his contractor, believes that square columns on the side porch are probably the design of the originals. The present columns appear to be of twentieth century origin.

Mr. Ciota presented photos of the rotted front columns as well as the square columns on the side porch.

Mr. Ciota said that his objective is to be historically correct on the restoration of the front columns and that he welcomed the Commission's view on the more appropriate approach to take.

Mr. O'Kane said that the square columns on the side porch were from a later Victorian period and were more ornate than the simple but beautiful round columns on the house front and that it would be more appropriate to replace the rotted columns with like kind round columns representing the same period.

Mr. O'Brien then read an email from Commission member Elizabeth DiSalvo, who was unable to join the meeting. Ms. DiSalvo said that the current front columns have entasis and they are very simple whereas the columns on the side of the house are much more ornate and obviously from a later Victorian era, and she believes that they would not be appropriate on the front of the house.

Mr. Ciota said that he appreciated the comments and that he is happy to propose that the front columns be replaced with like kind wooden round columns.

Mr. O'Kane suggested that to lessen the chance of future wood rot at the base of the columns, Mr. Ciota's contractor may want to look at wood treated replacements which also provide some ventilation at the base.

Mr. Blandford moved, and Mr. O'Kane seconded, a motion to approve the replacement of existing columns of the front entrance overhang with like rounded wood columns. Motion passed 5-0.

2) 250 Main Street – Approval of installation of four storm windows

Mr. O'Brien referred to the application received for the installation of four storm windows and the accompanying pictures of such replacement which were comprised of clear glass in a thin frame and the proposed location of such storm windows.

Mr. O'Kane moved, and Mr. Tobin seconded, a motion to approve the installation of the four storm windows as presented. Motion passed 5-0.

3) Commission Design Guidelines – Review and discussion of draft guidelines

Mr. O'Brien briefly reviewed the changes made to the draft guidelines based on discussion at the last Commission meeting.

A motion was made by Mr. O'Brien, seconded by Mr. Tobin, to approve the Design Guidelines. Motion passed 5-0.

4) Commission's Preservation Advisory Role – Review and discussion

Commission members discussed: the need for the promotion of greater public awareness of Ridgefield's other five non-regulated historic districts; the Commission's role in an advisory capacity

to other town departments and commissions on preservation matters; and, the Commission's ongoing partnership with the Ridgefield Historical Society.

The consensus of all the Commission members was that there was a need within the Ridgefield community for greater understanding of historic resources and historic districts located throughout the Town and that the Historic District Commission was in a position, in an advisory and public education capacity, to help meet this need.

5) Approval of the February 27, 2020 HDC meeting minutes

B. Tobin moved, and R. Moore seconded, a motion to approve the February 27, 2020 minutes. Motion passed by unanimous vote.

R. Moore moved, and H. Hanlon seconded, a motion to adjourn the Historic District Commission meeting at 8:31 p.m. Motion passed by unanimous vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Daniel O'Brien, Chair