



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

APPROVED REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, May 20, 2021

A regular meeting was held via Zoom which was open to the public on Thursday, May 20, 2021, at 7:30 p.m.

The following members were present:

Dan O'Brien, Chair
Briggs Tobin, Vice Chair
Rhys Moore
Harriet Hanlon
Kam Daughters
Elizabeth DiSalvo

The meeting was called to order by Mr. O'Brien at 7:33 p.m.

1. 207 Main Street, Jesse Lee United Methodist Church

Ms. Teresa Looney, a Trustee of the Church, was present to represent the Applicant regarding the placement of a fence on the east side of the Church's building at 21 King Lane. Ms. Looney said that the fence would be the same as the existing Church fence in terms of design and material running along King Lane. Ms. Looney said that the application indicated that the fence would be brown but that there is consideration to match the fence color to the house color. Mr. O'Brien pointed out that it would be very unusual to match the color of a fence to the house and, in fact, all of the picket fences in the historic district are white as is the Church's existing picket fence on King Lane. K. Daughters agreed with this assessment and believes that the proposed fence should be white. Ms. Looney indicated that this would likely be acceptable to the Church.

The discussion then centered on the proposed location of the fence which was not clear from the material provided with the application. Mr. O'Brien asked that the Church submit a plot plan which clearly marked the location of the fence and its length to which Ms. Looney agreed.

K. Daughters moved and R. Moore seconded a motion to approve the application as submitted on May 10, 2021 for the installation on the east side of Pastor's residence of a white wood picket fence of the same height and design as the Applicant's existing fence on King Lane contingent upon the submission of and agreement by the Commission to a plot plan showing the proposed placement and length of the fence. (This plot plan was submitted by the Applicant on May 21, 2021 and was acceptable to the Commission.) Motion passed 5-0.

Mr. O'Brien welcomed to the meeting two members of the public, Colleen Cash and Robert Madeira. Colleen Cash said that she had contacted Mr. O'Brien two months ago to express her interest in the Historic District Commission and Mr. O'Brien invited her to attend a Commission meeting. Ms. Cash spoke of her interest in arts and historic preservation and provided some of her relevant background and experience. Mr. O'Brien thanked her for her interest and said that the Commission would certainly keep her in mind when a vacancy on the Commission occurs.

Mr. Robert Madeira told the Commission that he and Ms. Cash have recently purchased 50 High Ridge Avenue which is in the district. Mr. Madeira referenced prior conversations with Mr. O'Brien on the needed replacement of the house's wood shingle roof which was in very poor shape and that Mr. O'Brien invited him to a Commission meeting so that he may consult with Commission members on possible direction before submitting an application.

Mr. Madeira citing cost concerns indicated that he would have preferred to replace the existing wood shingle roof with a synthetic material. Messrs. Tobin, Moore and O'Brien each pointed out that replacement of an historical appropriate material such as wood shingles with a covering of lesser historical appropriateness on an 1880 house such as 50 High Ridge Avenue has been found to be not appropriate in prior applications before the Commission. Mr. Madeira indicated that a roof contractor stated that the placement of wood shingles on the lower inclined wrap around porch was not technically recommended. E. DiSalvo suggested that they consider a metal covering of this portion of the roof and stated that materials such as copper and zinc were historically appropriate given the 1880's timeframe of the structure. Mr. Madeira and Ms. Cash said that they would consult further with roof contractors and come back to the Commission with an application for the replacement of the roof based upon materials which they would propose. Mr O'Brien thanked them and said that upon receiving the application, the Commission would schedule a site visit to the property.

2. Proposed Placement of Street Signs Identifying the Four Ridgefield Historic Districts

Mr. O'Brien said that B. Tobin, K. Daughters and himself had been investigating the placement of such historic district signs within the districts and presented various photos of existing signs both within Ridgefield and from other towns, as well as the proposed wording and design of the signs and the proposed location of such signs within Ridgefield. The existing sign marking the Battle of Ridgefield on Main Street was viewed. Messrs. Tobin and O'Brien and Ms. Daughters suggested that sign as the preferred approach on sign design and material. Mr. O'Brien indicated that the next step will be to obtain cost estimates for the signs.

3. Minutes Approval

A motion was made by H. Hanlon and seconded by R. Moore to approve the following minutes. Motion passed 5-0.

- February 18, 2021 regular meeting minutes
- March 7, 2021 site visit and special meeting minutes
- April 10, 2021 site visit and special meeting minutes for 57 Rockwell Road
- April 10, 2021 site visit and special meeting minutes for 188 Main Street
- May 6, 2021 site visit and special meeting minutes

The meeting was adjourned at 8:33 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Daniel J. O'Brien, Chair