

**RIDGEFIELD HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION**  
**Town Hall, 400 Main Street**  
**Ridgefield, CT 06877**  
**July 27, 2023**

**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.**

**APPROVED SITE VISIT AND SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES**

A Site Visit and Special Meeting of the Ridgefield Historic District Commission (“HDC”) was held at The Aldrich Museum, located at 258 Main St, Ridgefield, CT 06877, on Thursday, July 27, 2023 and beginning at 6:30 p.m.

The following members were present:

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

**AGENDA**

**258 Main Street** – New Walkway from Main Street and Sign Relocation

The Special Meeting was called to order by Mr. O’Brien at 6:30 p.m. Cybele Maylone, Museum Executive Director, and Eddie Marshall and Ramon Ibarlucea, both of Stimson Studios, landscape architects, were in attendance.

Messrs. Marshall and Ibarlucea had staked out the lawn area adjacent to the Museum to show two alternative approaches to the placement of a handicap accessible sidewalk entering from Main Street leading to the rest of the Museum’s property. The walkway will connect with an existing walkway on the Museum’s property of the same approximate width. One version of the proposed walkway with a 7.8% slope would run in a straight line and have handicap rails beginning 10 ft. in from the sidewalk (8 ft. from the property line). The other version of the sidewalk would be a curvy, longer sidewalk with a 4.8% slope having no handrails.

Ms. Maylone and Mr. Marshall explained their preference for the 7.8% slope straight walkway variation as it was simpler and required substantially less lawn space which could continue to be used for artwork installations. They also noted that the proposed metal railing would be thin and grey and would blend in well with the surroundings.

Members of the Commission walked the site of the lawn area and asked several questions and expressed interest in each of the alternatives for various reasons as each alternative had value. The area of the proposed relocation of the Museum’s sign was observed.

After further consideration:

**Mr. O’Kane moved and Ms. Kaplan seconded a motion to approve the plans as presented for (1) the placement of a sidewalk running straight from Main Street with a 7.8% slope and having a handicap accessible railing beginning 10 ft. in from the Main Street sidewalk. The walkway will connect with an existing walkway on the Museum’s property of the same approximate width.; and (2) relocation of the Museum’s sign as presented on the plans. Related lighting to be presented and approved at a later date. Motion passed 5-0.**

Minutes for each of the following meetings were approved:

- May 11, 2023 – Site Visit Minutes for 355 Main Street – St. Stephen’s Rectory
- May 11, 2023 – Regular Meeting Minutes
- May 11, 2023 – Special Meeting Minutes for 77 High Ridge Avenue
- June 5, 2023 – Site Visit and Special Meeting Minutes – 321 Main Street
- June 5, 2023 – Special Meeting Minutes – 355 Main Street and 9 Branchville Road

The meeting was adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Daniel O’Brien  
Chair