

**RIDGEFIELD HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION**  
**Town Hall, 400 Main Street**  
**Ridgefield, CT 06877**  
**September 11, 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 45 West Lane, Ridgefield, CT 06877, on Monday, September 11, 2023 and beginning at 6:00 p.m.

The following members were present:

Dan O’Brien, Chair  
Sean O’Kane, Vice Chair  
Kam Daughters  
Rhys Moore  
Mark Blandford (Alternate for Harriet Hanlon)  
Sara Kaplan (Alternate)  
Michael Mitchell (Alternate)

**AGENDA**

45 West Lane – Installation of swimming pool including:

- New fencing for pool enclosure;
- New driveway configuration including widening at street and new entry pillars;
- New freestanding pergola at garage; and
- New carriage doors on garage.

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Dan O’Brien at 6:00 p.m. The homeowners Casey and Corrin Arasa were present along with Mr. Dean Pushlar, Landscape Architect and Applicant, and Craig Studer, Consulting Landscape Architect on the swimming pool.

Mr. Pushlar presented the plans to the Commission members and pointed out the existing garage that would become the future pool cabana and where the new carriage doors would be situated. He said straight behind the house would be the new pool. Mr. O’Brien asked if the existing guest house would remain. Mr. Pushlar said it would. There would be no changes with that structure.

Due to the weather, Mr. O’Brien moved the meeting inside the house. Large scale plans were placed on the dining room table for presentation purposes. Mr. Pushlar said there were currently two stone pillars

with light lanterns at the front of the driveway. Due to safety concerns, the pillars would be pulled back and the existing lights replaced with a softer uplight. The driveway entrance would be slightly wider for safety. An oil & stone circular courtyard would be added to allow for service and delivery. The asphalt driveway going back to the guest house would be eliminated.

Mr. Pushlar said the garage would be turned into a pool cabana with a simple pergola in front of it. Underneath the pergola would be a patio. To the other side of the cabana would be the pool equipment screened by new plantings.

Mr. O'Brien asked about the pathway to the guest house. Mr. Pushlar said that there would be a gravel pathway from the cabana/pergola back towards the guest house. Raised garden beds with timber edge would be placed along this pathway.

Mr. Blandford asked about the fencing. Mr. Pushlar pointed out the photos of the proposed fencing to the east, they would be mimicking the neighbor's fence and to the south, they would be installing deer netting. To the west they would possibly need to replace the existing picket fence. This picket fence would also be extended and return to the house on the north side and closed with a gate. An outside kitchen, behind the house, leading to the pool will be added.

Mr. O'Kane asked about the transition band from the driveway to the circular driveway. Surrounding the circular driveway would be cobble stone. Mr. Pushlar said the existing asphalt driveway would remain up to a point. They were thinking of a Belgium block or cobble stone band for the transition with the new asphalt. Although due to cost, they were considering just adding the new paving adjacent to the existing paving. Mr. O'Brien suggested that they may want to consider repaving the entire driveway for a better match and eliminating the need for the first transition.

Mr. O'Kane asked what would be in the middle of the circular driveway. Mr. Pushlar said they were thinking of an ornamental large flower bowl to be a small focal point.

**Mr. Blandford moved and Mr. O'Kane seconded a motion to approve the application as presented for the installation of a swimming pool, including new fencing for pool enclosure; new driveway configuration including widening at street and new entry pillars; new freestanding pergola at garage; and new carriage doors on garage. Applicant has option to repave the entire driveway. Motion passed 5-0.**

The meeting was adjourned at 6:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Nancy L. Fields  
Recording Secretary