



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

SPECIAL MEETING AND SITE VISITS MINUTES

Tuesday, June 2, 2020

32 High Ridge Avenue & 12 Jackson Court

Attendees

Dan O'Brien, Chair
Briggs Tobin, Vice Chair
Sean O'Kane
Rhys Moore
Harriet Hanlon
Mark Blandford (Alternate)
Elizabeth DiSalvo (Alternate for Sean O'Kane on 12 Jackson Court)

32 High Ridge Avenue

The meeting was called to order by Dan O'Brien at 5:31 p.m. Applicant Raymond Gizzi was present as well as Natalie Gizzi, the property owner.

The application was for the replacement of the aluminum gutters with copper gutters and the installation of a new white picket fence together with black chain link fencing on certain portions of the property line. Mr. O'Brien indicated to the Commission members that the upgrade in gutters to copper is viewed as a repair item and does not require Commission approval.

Mr. Gizzi then proceeded to present to the Commission diagrams of where the proposed fencing would be placed as well as a reference to fencing in a catalogue showing the look of the proposed picket fence. He said the height of the fence would be four feet. The Commission members then walked the property with Mr. Gizzi as he pointed out the placement of the various fence sections.

Briggs Tobin said that maintaining streetscape was an important element in the District and questioned the need for a four-foot fence as opposed to say a 42-inch fence. Raymond and Natalie Gizzi indicated that the proposed fence was to contain and protect a pet dog. Sean O'Kane said that he believed that a four-foot fence would look well.

Sean O’Kane made the following motion which was seconded by Rhys Moore:

To approve the proposed picket and black chain link fence as proposed in the plans presented.

The motion was approved 4-1 with Briggs Tobin dissenting.

At 5:55 p.m. the meeting was temporarily adjourned to move to 12 Jackson Court to continue.

12 Jackson Court

The meeting was called back to order at 6:00 p.m. at 12 Jackson Court. Sean O’Kane recused himself as the applicant was a former client. The applicant and property owner Mrs. Alison Rao was requesting an amendment to a previously issued Certificate of Appropriateness dated October 18, 2019, pursuant to which plans for a new pool and related fencing had been approved.

Mrs. Rao indicated that the original plans called for the pool fence to be three feet in from the existing stone wall on the north side of the property and that by doing so would divide the property in a way that would not be useful and that they now propose to install a black hard mesh four-foot fence atop the stone wall on the north side of the property which would terminate on to the west side of the property at the juncture of an existing split rail fence. The proposed fencing would then turn or replace the small section of split rail fencing.

Mrs. Rao stated that their neighbor Patrick Downend gave permission to install the fence on top of the stone wall.

The Commission members walked the property with Mrs. Rao and viewed a section of the proposed fencing which had been installed at the Commission’s request. The members viewed the proposed fence placement and discussed visibility from a public way to which no concerns were raised.

Harriet Hanlon made the following motion which was seconded by Elizabeth DiSalvo:

To approve as presented the amendment of the Certificate of Appropriateness dated October 18, 2019 whereby a four-foot black hard mesh fence is to be atop the stone wall on the northside of the property.

The motion was approved 5-0.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Daniel J. O’Brien, Chair