

HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION

Town of Ridgefield, Connecticut

400 Main Street Lower Conference Room

SITE VISIT MINUTES 351 Main Street – St. Stephen's Church – September 7, 2019

On Saturday, September 7, 2019 at 8:30 a.m., a site visit was held at 351 Main Street. It is anticipated that an application for a Certificate of Appropriateness will be filed prior to the Commission's next Regular meeting on Thursday, September 19, 2019, and that the Commission will hear the application at that time.

HDC members in attendance were:

Dan O'Brien, Chairman Sean O'Kane Joe Gasperino Kam Daughters (Alternate) Harriet Hanlon (Alternate) Mark Blandford (Alternate – recused himself)

The HDC was shown the property by John Doyle of Doyle Coffin Architecture and Chris Fallen representing St. Stephen's Church (the "Church").

The proposed changes on the property being sought by the Church are a result of its interest in offering for sale approximately 1 ¼ acres to the south of the Church including an existing colonial house known as South Hall located thereon. To accomplish this, the Church has an application with the Planning & Zoning Commission to move the property line of such parcel to an area approximately bordering on the existing driveway on the Church building southside. The other proposed changes to be noted herein are also subject to Planning & Zoning approval.

Along with the property line change, the other proposed changes to the property include the expansion of the parking lot behind the Church building which includes the installation of lighting; the addition of a sidewalk along the existing driveway; and, a possible relocation and change of the handicap ramp.

Upon walking the site, Mr. O'Brien stated to the attendees that all of the proposed changes were clearly visible from a public street or public way and that, therefore, other than the change in property line, such changes are within the HDC's purview and subject to its approval.

It was also noted that an area close to where the parking lot is to be expanded, there were a number of large apparently healthy trees, and while landscaping is not within the purview of the HDC, it is hoped that such trees may be spared removal if possible.

Submitted by:

Daniel J. O'Brien Chair