

**RIDGEFIELD HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION**  
**Town Hall, 400 Main Street**  
**Ridgefield, CT 06877**  
**June 5, 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 SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES**

A Special meeting of the Ridgefield Historic District Commission (“HDC”) was held at 353 Main St, Ridgefield, CT 06877, on Monday, June 5, 2023 and beginning at 7:00 p.m.

The following members were present:

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

**AGENDA**

- 1) 353 Main Street – St. Stephen’s Rectory – Wrap Around Porch Repair and Restoration**
- 2) 9 Branchville Road – Detached Garage / Barn in Front Yard**

**1) 353 Main Street – St. Stephen’s Rectory – Wrap Around Porch Repair and Restoration**

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Dan O’Brien at 7:01 p.m. Mr. Bill Murrell, Property Committee Chair at St. Stephen’s Rectory was present, along with Mr. Randy Baldwin who assists with property maintenance.

Mr. Murrell said after taking the Commission’s advice from the last visit, they realized they would not be prepared to present at the June 2023 regular HDC meeting. In fact, they believed the project would now be a next year event. They were working on finding grants, but wanted the HDC’s thoughts on the Rectory’s decking, columns and railings.

**Columns:**

Currently, Mr. Murrell believed eight columns would need to be repaired, although it could be more. They no longer wished to ‘replace’ them. He said that back in 2008, the columns had been repaired. However, they didn’t know how many were repaired at that time. Mr. Murrell asked if Mr. O’Kane had any suggestions. Mr. O’Kane said they could look online at [preservationct.org](http://preservationct.org). There were various companies who would do this type of work. He knew of one in North Stonington.

**Railings:**

Mr. Murrell said when this was last repaired, the material used was Maple. He now believes this was a bad choice because they deteriorated rapidly after just four years. Mr. O’Kane said there was a new material now, namely heat treated lumber. This was less prone to rot and moisture. A good choice.

Mr. Murrell said he had reached out to the Ridgefield Historical Society for pictures of the railing. However they had none. Mr. Murrell also reached out to the local historian, Jack Sanders, who also did not have any pictures. Unfortunately, it appeared no one had railing pictures.

As such, Mr. Murrell asked for advice of what to look for in terms of design. Mr. O’Kane said there were quite a few choices. He would move more towards the robust type, which would look more like a colonial style. He said he would look at some designs and email them as examples.

**Ms. Daughters moved and Mr. Moore seconded a motion to deny without prejudice on the basis that the Applicant continues to be in the process of considering revised plans and will require additional time beyond the statutory timeline for the Commission’s consideration of such application. Motion passed 5-0.**

**2) 9 Branchville Road – Detached Garage / Barn in Front Yard**

Mr. O’Brien said the homeowner, Mr. Michael Weiss, had advised his vendor was unable to make the scale changes discussed at the April 13, 2023’s HDC meeting. He would advise once he was able to present updated plans.

**Ms. Daughters moved and Mr. Moore seconded a motion to deny without prejudice on the basis that the Applicant continues to be in the process of considering revised plans and will require additional time beyond the statutory timeline for the Commission’s consideration of such application. Motion passed 5-0.**

**Mr. O’Kane moved and Ms. Hanlon seconded a motion to adjourn the Historic District Commission Meeting at 7:17 p.m. Motion passed by unanimous vote.**

Respectfully submitted,  
Nancy L. Fields  
Recording Secretary