

East Haddam Historic District Commission

Special Meeting

March 26, 2013

7:30 pm

The River House

1. Call to order

The Special meeting of the East Haddam Historic District Commission was called to order at 7:25pm upon the arrival of a quorum.

2. Attendance

Will Brady, Chris Miller, David Nelson, Steve Rossi, Pam Rubenbauer, and Joe Zirlis

Others present Ajit Gokhale Louis Bacho , department of transportation, Chuck Fitzgerald, Rick Stewart representing Lisa. McNellis and Kim Root , Cole McCormick and Rebecca Wonneberger recording Secretary.

3. Informal Discussion

The Department of transportation appeared before the East Haddam Historic district commission in regards to project s 40-130 the Creamery road bridge project and 40-135 the Ray Hill road project. Mr. Gokhale stated both bridges were on route 82. Mr. Gokhale also stated the project may begin sometime this year but, most of it would be completed the 2014 season. Mr. Gokhale also stated the bridges would be closed most of the time it was under construction and there would be limited access to Ray Hill Road. Mr. Gokhale stated the foundation work on the bridge could only be done from June to September t o comply with Department of Environmental Protection regulations. Mr. Zirlis asked what the work would consist of. Mr. Gokhale stated the work would consist of a 32 feet bridge by

Ray Hill road(40-135) with a ten foot clearance and there would also be some straightening of the existing curve. The Creamery Road project (40-130) would consist of a 25 foot wide bridge with 10 foot clearance and a pedestrian side walk, Mr. Gokhale presented sketches at this time. Mr. Gokhale stated the Bridges would be closed for the duration of the project approximately 168 days. Chairman Brady asked what the retaining walls would look like. Mr. Gokhale presented pictures of the proposed material, form pressed concrete. Mr. Bacho stated it would also be stained to look more like natural stone.

Mr. Bacho asked about the railing on the wall he stated they could have the entire railing match. Mr. Nelson and Mr. Rossi stated they preferred the railing have a different appearance for each project and the white railing in front of the goodspeed housing should be left alone to show the different time the projects were completed. Mr. Nelson asked about the appearance of the top of the bridge. Mr. Bacho stated they would not be doing the form line concrete, he stated they would only be using it along the side walk. Mr. Rossi asked if there was any lighting planned. Mr. Gokhale stated it was not planned to have lighting. Mr. Rossi also suggested the use of a transition piece between the two types of fences. Mr. Bacho stated they could leave a conduit near the transition piece if, lighting should be needed at some point in the future. Mr. Nelson stated he felt straightening and widening the road would obliterate the current traffic calming effect the curve had when entering the village area. Mr. Nelson asked about installing a pedestrian walkway along this part of the project. Mr. Gokhale stated the road needed to be widened to 32 feet because that is what federal standards mandate and there need to be a special set of circumstances if it is not widened to that standard. Further discussion ensued.

Chairman Brady asked the members of the public who were present. Mr. McCormick stated he liked the proposed changes. Mr. McCormick also stated he felt it was good that there would be a different look between the two bridges.

Mr. Gokhale stated the historic district should send a letter to the department of Transportation as soon as possible about the addition of a side walk because the process was all ready under way, and the project was slated to start in the spring of 2014. Mr. Gokhale and Mr. Bacho left at 8:35 pm.

Mr. Stewart presented a letter from Ms. Mc Nellis and Ms. Root stating Mr. Stewart would be representing them. Mr. Stewart stated Ms. Mc Nellis and Ms. Root wanted to install replacement windows,, a sample of the window was showed to the historic district at this time. Mr. Stewart also stated they intended to replace the window and keep the current grills with two over one on the top of the house and six over six at the bottom. Mr. Nelson stated this is something he felt requires a public hearing. Ms Wonneberger stated the legal notice would be posted in time for the regular meeting of the Historic District commission on April 16, 2013. Mr. Stewart and Mr. Fitzgerald left at 8:45.

Mr. McCormick state he was interested in placing a sign in front of the town meeting hall and grange as part of his eagle scout project. Mr. McCormick presented a sketch of the sign he proposed and a site plan of the town meeting hall and grange as approved by the historic district commission in

C-03-12. Mr. McCormick stated he in tented to use a 6x6 foot sign with a cedar shingled roof over top of it and lighting would be under the roof. Mr. Nelson stated most signs are currently made of plastic or a carved plastic which gives the appearance of wood but, is better for use in the elements. Mr. Nelson also suggested minimizing the wording on the sign to make it easier to read. Mr. Nelson also suggested eliminating the roof over the sign and using ground level illumination instead. Ms. Rubenbauer also agreed with the elimination of the roof over the sign. Mr. Nelson also stated the word Town Hall and grange should be permanent on the sign and the other information should be flexible to allow for the changing of other information such as town meetings and farmers markets. Chairman Brady stated he would like to know what holds the sign in place and would like a proposal for anything such as plants and flowers around the base of the sign. Mr. Rossi also suggested a lighting plan be included. Mr. McCormick left at 9:20.

4. Chairman's report

Chairman Brady stated he had spoken with Mr. Walter about the 2013-2014 year budget and our budget would be cut, however if we need more money we can ask for it. A letter to the Department of Transportation was drafted at this time.

5. Adjournment

There being no further business to discuss, a motion to adjourn to was made by Mr. Rossi and seconded by Mr. Nelson .