

East Haddam Historic District Commission

June 18, 2013

7:30 p.m.

River House

Attendance:

Members

Chris Miller

David Nelson

Steve Rossi

Pam Rubenbauer (alternate)

Dr. Karl Stofko (alternate)

Others

Jon Peters

Deb Denette

Call to Order

The regular meeting of the East Haddam Historic District Commission was called to order at 7:33 by David Nelson, acting as chairman due to the absence of Chairman Will Brady. Mr. Nelson promoted Dr. Stofko (alternate) and Pam Rubenbauer (alternate) to voting members and recognized quorum.

32 Main Street Eatery

Mr. Peters presented certified mail receipts to the commission. Mr. Nelson noted that this item was noticed as an informal discussion and NOT a public hearing. He elaborated that there are legal posting requirements that have not been met because this was not to be a public hearing. He further stated that a certificate of appropriateness will not be issued until protocols are followed. Mr. Peters noted that he understood, but added that all of the neighbors have been notified and none came. He further noted that it is costly to send certified mail. Mr. Nelson stated that he would defer decision making to the chairman and Land Use Administrator regarding the premature certified mail letters.

Mr. Peters stated that a covered entrance is being requested for the rear of the building. Mr. Peters presented pictures of the back of the building, along with pictures of a similar structure on Norwich Road that is proposed to be duplicated. The building is 19' wide the covered entrance proposed is 16' x 10'. The commission was of the opinion that the addition would not be visible from the road or the right of way and did not have adverse impact to the historical district. Responsive to inquiry from Mr. Nelson, Mr. Peters advised that there will be a hatch in the porch to address the bulkhead.

The Commission questioned the status of the exhaust fan discussed at a prior meeting. Mr. Peters stated that he will have specifications available for the next meeting; said pipe will run through the roof and be black or brown. Mr. Peters further noted that he is looking to simplify the menu at his time and focus on opening. He also noted that he had a visit with the fire marshal and that it is starting to all come together.

The Commission discussed the sign. It was recommended that the sign be squared off, downsized and lowered. The words "eatery" will be removed. The Commission stated that the sign, as it presently stands, will not receive approval.

Mr. Nelson emphasized that the deadline to be placed on the agenda for a public hearing at the July meeting is June 25th at noon. He encouraged Mr. Peters to act swiftly.

Stewart – 88 Main Street

No one representing the Stewart family was present. The item was not discussed.

River House sign

Mr. Mansfield was not in attendance. He did, however, request feedback on several suggested signs to identify the River House. Considerable discussion was held with the following suggestions:

- The colored signs were preferable as they are more attractive.
- It was recognized, that for a sign that will not be visible from the road, either sign would be appropriate.
- All were deemed of a nice size and properly scaled.
- A consistent sign package encompassing a set color theme was encouraged for all of the buildings to be carried out throughout the town. The dark blue of the municipal sign in the front of the town office building was suggested.

Minutes

Mr. Rossi motioned, Ms. Rubenbauer seconded that the minutes of the May 21, 2013 be amended as follows:

- Public hearing line 2. Strike " the property across the street" and replace with "4 Norwich Road".
- Utilize initial capitalization in the word "post office" page 2.
- Remove the third s in "Rosssi", under adjournment.

The motion approving the minutes as amended carried unanimously.

Other

Ms. Miller noted that she had opportunity to view the smoker that was the discussion of a prior meeting regarding LaVita Gustosa (8 main Street). She stated that it portable and took up less than one parking space. She stated that as long as it was removed on a consistent basis when not in use, she would have no issue with it.

The Champion House will not be used for wedding receptions.

No bills were presented for payment.

Follow up items.

A gambrel roof shed (care free building type) was recently noticed between the eatery and the old C21 Root building. No one recalled an application coming before the commission at that location.

The Kelly home now has a black iron fence installed. The commission did not recall an approval.

The Centennial Bridge Celebration occurred Saturday. It was reported that the event was nicely done.

Mr. Stofko motioned to adjourn at 8:37 p.m.

Ms. Rubenbauer seconded the motion.

The motion to adjourn carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Deb Denette
Town Clerk