

MINUTES
TOWN OF GROTON
HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION
AUGUST 7, 2007 - 7:00 P.M.
GROTON TOWN HALL ANNEX - COMMUNITY ROOM 2

Members Present: C. Nado, R. Seager, E. Cole and N. Mitchell
Alternates Present:
Staff: P. Vandenbosch, S. Discordia

Chairman Nado called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

I. PUBLIC HEARINGS

Cole read the call as it appeared in The Day.

HDC 07-39 – 7 Water Street; Tim Owens, owner; Christopher Owens, applicant; dumpster enclosure. PIN 261918307563

Chris Owens submitted pictures of the dumpster enclosure he would like to install around the two dumpsters. He stated the enclosure will be constructed out of cedar.

Chairman Nado asked for public comments and there were none.

The following exhibits were presented:

- 4 pictures
- 1 drawing
- 1 materials sheet

HDC 07-40 – 51 Clift Street; Bill Smithson, owner/applicant; replace window. PIN 261918328063

Bill Smithson presented to the Commission. He submitted pictures of the present window above his kitchen sink. He explained the top frame of the window will match the other windows but the bottom will be higher.

Chairman Nado asked for public comments and there were none.

The following exhibits were presented:

- 6 pictures
- 1 materials sheet

HDC 07-41 – 15 ½ Water Street; Powerhouse Condo Assoc., owner; Marie Carijas & Christine Lichatz, applicants; new sign. PIN 261918307079

Helen Babcock presented to the Commission. She submitted to the Commission pictures of the proposed signs and plaques stating year built "1903". Ms. Babcock stated that the brick structures are part of this application as they were not applied for previously. Chairman Nado asked if they would be lit and Ms. Babcock stated not at this time and they would reapply for lighting at a later date.

Chairman Nado asked for public comments and there were none.

The following exhibits were presented:

- 5 pictures

HDC 07-42 – 16 West Mystic Avenue; Andrew & Laurie Bliss, owners/applicants; replace windows, remove shutters & add lattice. PIN 261805290062

Mr. Bliss submitted pictures of the house to the Commission. They would like to remove the shutters on the house. They are going to cut off the aluminum and put on wood corner posts. They would also like to replace windows with Harvey, double hung, aluminum clad with divided lights. The attic windows and two kitchen windows will remain the same. The grids will be fixed on the interior and exterior of the windows. Mr. Bliss stated they would like to install lattice as a garbage enclosure and along the bottom of the deck on the front of the house.

Chairman Nado asked for public comments and there were none.

The following exhibits were presented:

- 12 pictures
- 1 materials sheet

The public hearings were closed at 8:00 p.m.

II. DISCUSSION ON ITEMS OF PUBLIC HEARING

HDC 07-39 – 7 Water Street

MOTION: To grant a Certificate of Appropriateness as submitted.

Motion made by Cole, seconded by Seager, so voted unanimously.

HDC 07-40 – 51 Clift Street

MOTION: To grant a Certificate of Appropriateness as submitted.

Motion made by Seager, seconded by Cole, so voted unanimously.

HDC 07-41 – 15 ½ Water Street

MOTION: To grant a Certificate of Appropriateness as submitted.

Motion made by Seager, seconded by Cole, so voted unanimously.

HDC 07-42 – 16 West Mystic Avenue

MOTION: To grant a Certificate of Appropriateness as submitted.

Motion made by Mitchell, seconded by Seager, so voted unanimously.

III. PRE-APPLICATION HEARINGS

Jim Gibbs, architect, presented to the Commission regarding 32 Water Street. He addressed the storefront windows and how they did not comply with the permit granted by the Historic District Commission. Mr. Gibbs stated that the sign for Azu Azu restaurant also needs an application. He showed photos to the Commission of the existing front of the building.

Mr. Gibbs showed the Commission how the original drawing of the façade of the storefront is not to scale. He distributed drawings of three different options to correct the windows on the storefront.

The Commission stated they would like these to look like windows and not doors and the frames are too thick for windows. The Commission would like to see drawings without the awning.

Mr. Gibbs stated that the new sign is smaller than the original sign. He distributed a picture inventory of all signs in downtown Mystic to the Commission.

The Commission stated that the sign is too long and the logo is too large.

Michael Luethy of 218 High Street would like to install a picket fence. He would like to enclose the entire yard with the picket fence. He showed the Commission pictures of his house. His house currently has a black wrought iron fence along the front.

The Commission had concerns with a white picket fence sharing the front boundary with the iron fence. They felt it would look too busy and discussed other options for the front yard.

Nichole Handfield of 115 Library Street would like to add a skylight to the roof of the master bathroom. She stated that the skylight will be hidden behind the chimney.

The Commission asked that something be put in the spot of the proposed skylight and a photo taken to get a better idea how visible it would be. The Commission agreed they would individually drive by the house to see if the skylight could be seen from a public way.

Lisa Wilson of 369 Noank Road would like to reroof her home. She showed the Commission pictures of her home. Ms. Wilson showed the Commission a sample of the shingles she would like to use.

IV. CORRESPONDENCE

Staff distributed the July/August edition of Preservation News and a pamphlet from the National Preservation Institute listing professional seminars.

V. MINUTES

MOTION: To approve the minutes of July 17, 2007.

Motion made by Mitchell, seconded by Seager, so voted unanimously.

VI. OLD BUSINESS - None

VII. NEW BUSINESS - None

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn at 9:45 p.m. made by Seager, seconded by Cole, so voted unanimously.

Elaine Cole, Secretary
Historic District Commission

Prepared by Sheila Discordia, Office Assistant II