

Draft Minutes

TOWN OF GUILFORD Historic District Commission Minutes – 21st December, 2016

A public hearing and regular meeting of the Historic District Commission was held on Wednesday 21st December, 2016 at 7:00p.m. in the Guilford Community Center with Vice-Chairman John Cunningham presiding.

Present: John Cunningham, Randall McCartney and Susanna Smith. Excused: Reno Migani, Ann Street and Alternate Michael Mancini. Absent: Alternate Michael Sulzbach.

PUBLIC HEARING

The meeting was called to order at 7:04p.m. Clerk Randall McCartney read the legal call of the meeting.

#763 - James M. and Ann R. Rae, to install fencing and an exterior lamp and post, on property located at 180 State Street, Assessor's Map 46, Lot 129: James Rae introduced himself and stated that he had purchased the property in November 2016 and had given a lot of thought to what he might do with it. Mr. Rae said the property jutted out into the intersection of North and State Streets and with no trees on the west side it was quite exposed. Therefore, he would like to install some fences to give a sense of privacy, as follows: a) 6ft. high tongue and groove fence behind 15ft. of yew hedge on the north side of the property with a wood gate in the middle of the fence; b) 6ft. high cedar/spruce tongue and groove fence along the southern boundary line, extending from the southern end of the existing hedge on State Street to the intersection with the westerly property line; c) 6ft. high cedar/spruce tongue and groove fence along the east side of the arbor vitae hedge on the west boundary line extending from the end of the existing fence along the west property line to the northern end of the existing arbor vitae hedge. Mr. Rae said his intention was to block off the view of the back yard. In addition he wished to install a lamp post and lamp off the southwest corner of the house. He noted that the lamp had already been installed but was not completely finished. Mr. Cunningham recommended he match an existing solid fence on the property. He felt the fencing should be set back 6' – 8' on the property rather than being set on the actual property line, and that the fencing should not be brought out to the road. Mr. Cunningham also said he would like to see final details on the gate/trellis/arbor on North Street. He further noted that the arbor vitae was a little higher than 6ft. so the Commission would need to know the final decision on the installation of the fencing beside the arbor vitae. Since Mr. Rae mentioned that he had dogs the Commission felt the fencing should be installed in order to enclose his yard. No-one spoke for or against the application. Later, during the regular meeting, during discussion Mr. Cunningham said he liked the 6ft. fencing but that it should match existing and that tying it to the garage was a good idea.

Mrs. Smith made a motion, seconded by Mr. McCartney, to approve the application as submitted with the following stipulations: 1) The final layout of the fencing, arbor and completion of the lamp post and lamp must be reviewed with and approved by the subcommittee prior to purchase and/or installation. 2) Subcommittee appointed is Susanna Smith. The motion to approve was carried unanimously with Cunningham, McCartney and Smith voting in favor.

The public hearing was closed at 7:30p.m. and was followed immediately by the regular meeting.

REGULAR MEETING

Approval of Minutes: The Minutes of 16th November, 2016 were accepted as presented.

Public Forum: There were no members of the public present.

Meeting Schedule for 2017: The Commission agreed to continue meeting on the third Wednesday of each month at 7:00p.m. in the Guilford Community Center.

Correspondence: Connecticut Trust for Historic Preservation's newsletter "Preservation News" for November/December 2016; monthly budget report through 30th September, 2016.

Approval of Bills: Mr. Cunningham made a motion to approve the following bill: Katharine Stewart, secretarial services. Mr. McCartney seconded the motion and it was carried unanimously.

Budget Request 2017-2018: It was agreed the budget documents would be forwarded to Chairman Ann Street for filing.

Public Relations: Tabled.

Discuss Rules, Guidelines and Limitations of an Historic District: Tabled.

Unfinished Certificates of Appropriateness: Tabled.

Commission Openings: Mr. Cunningham reported that Teresa Buchanan had applied to serve on the Commission but had been told she could not be appointed because the only opening was for a Republican and Ms. Buchanan was a Democrat. Mr. Cunningham said Ms. Street had asked the Commission to think about this issue and discuss it at the January meeting.

Mr. Cunningham made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:45p.m. Mr. McCartney seconded the motion and it was carried unanimously.

The next meeting of the Historic District Commission will be held on Wednesday 18th January, 2017 at 7:00p.m. in the Guilford Community Center.

Respectfully submitted,

Katharine Stewart
Recording Secretary