

Middle Haddam Historic District Commission

Regular Meeting

Thursday, June 16, 2022

6:30 P.M.

Town Hall 1st Floor Meeting Room #102 & Via Zoom

Minutes

Present: Chairman Charles Roberts, Regina Starolis, Kara Pedersen, Peter Pach, and Casey Donnelly.

Absent: Melissa Briere, Christopher Dart and Patrick Walsh.

Call to Order: Presiding Chairman Charles Roberts called the meeting to order at 6:51 P.M.

Roll Call/ Seating of Alternates: Roll call was taken. Present was Chairman Charles Roberts, Casey Donnelly, Regina Starolis, Kara Pedersen, and Peter Pach. Ms. Donnelly and Mr. Pach were both seated as alternates by Chairman Roberts.

Public Remarks: None

Public Hearing:

- a) **Application 571 for a Certificate of Appropriateness at 20 Knowles Road - to install 25 feet of 6-foot fencing on the side of the house next to 22 Knowles Road - for applicant Mary Jo Shafer.:** Ms. Shafer attended the meeting to present and answer questions. The applicant wants to install 25 feet of 6 foot high fencing on side of house next to 22 Knowles Road. Northern White Cedar wood is preferred by the applicant for the materials used for the fence. The fence won't extend farther than the house next door and will be 6 inches off the ground. The fence will provide privacy, reduce noise, and block out sight of vents/ electrical boxes and maintenance people. The fence won't be painted now, but maybe in the future. The neighbor is willing to pay for half of the fences being installed. The members discussed whether the fence type is historically accurate. A few members decided to investigate and do some research on the fences used in the same time period as the house was built. There was a suggestion to look into sound proofing fencing around the generator unit in the neighbor's back yard. Ms. Starolis recuses herself from voting on the application. *A motion was made by Mr. Pach, seconded by Ms. Donnelly, to approve of application 571 for a Certificate of Appropriateness at 20 Knowles Road to install 25 feet of 6-foot high privacy fence on the side of the house next to 22 Knowles Road. Voted 0-4-1 denied with Ms. Starolis recused.*
- b) **Application 572 for a Certificate of Appropriateness at 57 Middle Haddam Road – to replace 1950's front door and casing (millwork) with a more historically appropriate door and millwork from the Georgian or Federal period - for applicant George A. Selmont.:** Mr. Selmont attended the meeting via Zoom to present and answer questions. The applicant wants to install a 1950's front door and casing with a more historically appropriate door and millwork from the Georgian or Federal period. The

current door is a 1950's half glass half wood door that isn't period appropriate for the age of the house. The new door would have fluted pilasters on the sides, plinth blocks on the bottom, and triangular topper on the top of the door. The shutters will be coming off the house and the windows will be 6 over 12 divided light on the house. The new door would be the correct style and time period for the house. The house is from the 1800's and the owner wants to keep the style and feel during and after the renovations. The peak of the door would be at appropriate distance. The concrete front steps will be replaced with granite slab. There is no hardware picked out but the owner stated he will pick time period appropriate hardware. The top of the door would stick out 5-6 inches from the house. The top of the door bump out will be shingled and the possible type would be a cedar shingle. The applicant was told to come before the commission again for moving the stone wall. *A motion was made by Ms. Donnelly, seconded by Mr. Pach, to approve of application 572 for a Certificate of Appropriateness at 57 Middle Haddam Road – to replace 1950's front door and casing (millwork) with a more historically appropriate door and millwork from the Georgian or Federal period. Voted 5-0 in favor.*

Unfinished Business: The bulletin board at the post office for the Commission will help spread awareness and post information to the Historic residents. The members discussed hosting a Q&A night at the library to answer any and all questions the residents may have.

Approval of Minutes and Motions

c) **April 28, 2022:** This item was tabled for next month's meeting.

d) **June 16, 2022:** This item was tabled for next month's meeting.

Correspondence: None

Reports: None

New Business: Mr. Selmont wanted to raise two issues with the commission. Route 151 is dangerous with many cars speeding which cause crashes and accidents along the road. It was suggested to turn the light in front of the library into a flashing red light. This would hopefully be used to cut down on speeding and vehicle crashes. There was discussion of having sidewalks installed in the popular area sites near churches, library, post office, etc. This would encourage more residents to walk through the town and motorists to slow down to prevent accidents. Mr. Selmont asked whether the topic was in the purview of the commission. He stated that he'll put together a presentation and gather all information for sidewalks. DOT requires a street study for possibly putting in new sidewalks. There was some discussion about street lights and/or lamps installed in the Historic Commission project from years ago that didn't go through. It was suggested to investigate if the sidewalk project could be feasible in the future.

Adjournment: *A motion was made by Ms. Starolis, seconded by Mr. Pach, to adjourn the meeting at 8:23 P.M. Voted 5-0 in favor.*

Respectfully Submitted,

Katrina Aligata

Recording Clerk