

Westport Historical Commission
Aug. 7, 2023 Meeting
at Town Hall Annex

Present were Commission Chair Rud Lawrence (RL), members Caroline Bolter (CB), Bill Kendall (BK), Garrett Stuck (GS) and Deborah Ciolfi (DC).

1. The meeting was called to order by the Chair at 6 p.m. with the above members present.
2. Minutes: The July 10, 2023 meeting minutes were reviewed. CB asked that the minutes be amended by correcting the third sentence under the 6:05 p.m. hearing on 7 Windward Way to read: The Chair and CB indicated that all views from public ways would be obscured by trees or vegetation.
MOTION by BK to approve the 7/10/23 minutes as amended, seconded by CB. The motion passed on a 5-0 vote.
3. Treasurer's Report: None.

6:05 p.m. – 5 Windward Way – Application for Certificate of Appropriateness for solar panels. It was noted that the installation would not be visible from the roadway, but would be visible from the river. Matt Isaksen from Isaksen Solar presented plans for the rooftop installation, indicating that 25 matte black solar panels are proposed for the south side of the roof; the panels would not be seen from the road, but would be visible seasonally from the river. The house, built in 1987, is sited about 500 feet from the river; the solar panels would cover approximately 85 percent of the roof. GS noted that the black panels would be highly visible against the beige roof shingles; DC and GS asked if the owners would be willing to replace the uncovered beige shingles with black shingles. BK suggested that approval of the installation would set a precedent for the historic district. He noted that a Commission subcommittee is studying regulations for solar panels from other communities in order to help develop an installation policy for the district. Owner Christine Kaldy asked if the commission would like to see a sample solar panel installed on the roof to check the visibility issue. The Chair noted that the property is not an historic house, and the solar panels would not be highly visible from any public way.
MOTION by DC to approve the Certificate of Appropriateness for 5 Windward Way. Second by GS. The motion passed on a 5-0 vote. DC and GS volunteered to serve as monitors.

6:10 p.m. – 1928-30 Main Road – Application for Certificate of Appropriateness for the replacement of the gutter and fascia on the East side of the house. The property owner not being present, the matter was passed over without action. The owner will be asked to reschedule the hearing for a future meeting.

6:15 p.m. – 1990 Main Road – Application for Certificate of Appropriateness for the replacement of gutters and fascia on the South and East sides of the house; and the shingles on the North side of the house. Owner Victoria Reppert detailed plans to replace rotten gutters, providing a catalog sample of the replacement product for the Commission and noting that round downspouts are planned. The like-for-like replacement of roof shingles was deemed not an issue for the public hearing to consider. There was some discussion of the details of the mitered corners for the replacement gutters, and the owner was asked to amend the application to include mitered corners in the plans.
MOTION by CB to approve the Application for the Certificate of Appropriateness as amended. Seconded by GS. The motion passed on a 5-0 vote.

GENERAL BUSINESS

1. Monitor's Reports: None.

2. Applications for Certificates of Non-Applicability: CB reported that 1990 Main Road had been granted a certificate for a new roof. An inquiry from the owner of 68 Howland Road about proposed work was reviewed, with no certificate necessary as the property is outside of the historic district and out of the Commission's jurisdiction.

3. New Business: The Chair indicated that he has been reviewing the Commission bylaws and found some points of interest about meeting and voting procedures that he will share with other members. He reported that the technical denial of the application for a Certificate of Appropriateness for 2038 Main Road may be appealed in court by the owners, as indicated by a July 21 letter to Town Counsel. The Chair then read his July 24 written response to Town Counsel's request for more information on the vote, indicating that he had miscounted the votes for approval, and the owners had been notified that the application had been denied for failing to get the required four votes for approval. His letter also advised counsel that the Commission was willing to reconsider the application and would probably vote for approval after that reconsideration, but that approval was not guaranteed.

GS provided an update on the Town Farm, reporting that Tony Milham has been overseeing the repairs of minor issues. It was reported that the Goldman house on Cadman's Neck has been added to the state MACRIS historic site list.

4. Adjournment: **MOTION** by BK to adjourn the meeting at 6:55 p.m. The motion was seconded by GS and passed on a 5-0 vote.

Approval Date: 9/11/23