

**Westport Historical Commission
Meeting of Jan. 3, 2022
at Town Hall**

In attendance were Commission Chair Rud Lawrence (RL), members Beverly Schuch (BS), Michael Walden (MW), Bill Kendall (BK), Henry Swan (HS) and alternates Garrett Stuck (GS) and Kristi Agniel (KA). Member Janet Jones (JJ) participated via speaker phone.

The meeting was called to order by Chair at 6:00 p.m. with GS asked to serve as a voting member.

Minutes: The Dec. 6, 2021 meeting minutes were reviewed. Amendments put forward included correcting spelling of representative Gregory Nowell in two places in 6:20 p.m. hearing notes. Under New Business, correct name of deceased owner to Ralph Guild; Correct second sentence to read "There is an historical restriction on the property..." and correct third sentence to read "The Chair suggested the Historical Commission should update the file in the town's historic building inventory, and..." **MOTION** by BK to approve the Dec. 6, 2021 minutes with the above amendments. Seconded by BS; the motion passed on a 7-0 vote.

Treasurer's Report: None.

Update on Gray's Grist Mill. GS reported on his research into the status of the mill property, noting the recently deceased owner's name is Ralph Guild, and confirming there is a 30-year historic preservation restriction on the property, executed in December 2017, protecting against any changes not in keeping with the historical exterior appearance of the buildings. He indicated the restriction has been recorded at the Registry of Deeds. GS indicated the Mass. Historical Commission file on the property contains very little information, and does not mention the historic preservation restriction; he suggested the MHC file needs to be updated. BK said it is important that any potential buyer knows about the restriction; he does not believe that the Historical Commission has the authority to enforce those protective covenants. HS suggested that the Westport Historical Society should be responsible for enforcement issues; RL feels that the Historical Commission is responsible for ensuring that the protective covenants are enforced.

HEARINGS/REVIEWS

6:10 p.m. Hearing: 1818 Main Rd. - Proposal for like-to-like replacement of four windows in the barn; two windows are visible from Main Road, and two barely visible from distant Route 88. The structure is likely late 1990s construction, built to replicate similar 19th century barns in the area. The proposed insert replacement windows are white composite sash from Anderson, with applied grills inside. BK noted that the proposed replacement windows are not in the traditional style of window from the 19th century, having thicker check rails and meeting rails. He indicated that similar replacement inserts are seldom approved by the Commission for traditionally styled structures in visible locations. The owner was encouraged to have her builder contact Mr. Kendall for more details on the proper style of windows to be used for the project.

MOTION by HS to deny the application for a Certificate of Appropriateness for the proposed work plans. Seconded by BK. The motion passed on a 7-0 vote.

6:15 p.m. Hearing: 2002 Main Rd. - Proposal for like-to-like replacement or repair of wooden gutters and downspouts on the house. The Chair suggested the application filed was for a Certificate of Applicability, but should more properly be deemed an application for a Certificate of Non-Applicability. The Chair read

the detailed description of the work proposed, and said it was enough information for a vote on a Certificate of Non-Applicability.

MOTION by HS to approve the Certificate of Non-Applicability. Seconded by BS. The motion passed on a 7-0 vote.

General Business: The Chair reported that the Commission Clerk is sidelined by an injury and needs some help performing the routine duties of the Clerk. BS volunteered to offer some assistance, and deliver a Certificate of Non-Applicability for the Clerk to sign. BK suggested that the Clerk's duties are important enough to consider the appointment of an Assistant Clerk to learn the job and be available to back up the serving Clerk.

1. Monitor's Reports: BK said a new concrete foundation has been poured at Weatherlow Farm, and it appears that the house will be replaced on the current footprint instead of being moved to a new location. He has not heard from the property owner about the change. KA reported that the access ramp at 1823 Main Road has been installed; she will deliver photographs of the installation for Commission files.

2. Applications for Certificates of Non-Applicability: None.

3. New Business: None.

Adjournment:

MOTION by BK at 6:40 p.m. to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by HS. The motion passed on a 7-0 vote.

Approved 3-7-22