

**Westport Historical Commission
Virtual Meeting of October 4, 2021
Google Meet (yns-jqan-hhq for all online meetings)**

Participating were Commission Chair Rud Lawrence (RL) and members Caroline Bolter (CB), Michael Walden (MW), Bill Kendall (BK), Janet Jones (JJ), Beverly Schuch (BS), Henry Swan (HS), and alternates Garrett Stuck (GS) and Kristi Agniel.

The meeting was called to order by Chair at 6:10 p.m. with the above members participating. GS named to serve as alternate as CB was unable to connect to the online meeting at this time.

Minutes: The Aug. 2, 2021 meeting minutes were reviewed. JJ made a motion to approve the minutes of the Aug. 2, 2021 meeting as presented. Seconded by BK; the motion passed on a 7-0 roll call vote – JJ aye; BK aye; RL aye; BS aye; HS aye; MW aye; GS aye.

Treasurer's Report: None.

2015 Main Road – Certificate of Appropriateness request for new roof, replacement of three skylights on the north side, and the addition of a solar strip beneath the skylights. Representing the owners, Elijah DeSousa outlined the proposed work, referencing emailed information sent to the Commission. He indicated the new skylights would be the same size as the two larger skylights currently in place; the solar strip (4 inches by 20 inches) would be located just below the new skylights. BK made a motion to approve the certificate based on the plans shown, seconded by JJ; the motion passed on a 7-0 roll call vote. JJ aye; BK aye; RL aye; BS aye; HS aye; MW aye, GS aye. Monitors – HS, BS.

Preliminary Review, 1823 Main Road – proposed wheelchair ramp. Owner Kirsten Newcomer reviewed plans and photos submitted by email for a wheelchair ramp from front door landing, running along the front of the house, ending at the driveway. Ms. Newcomer indicated the ramp would be a temporary installation, to be removed after her mother no longer needs it. The components would be aluminum, and remain unpainted. BS made a motion to give preliminary approval of the plans as submitted, seconded by JJ. The motion passed on a 7-0 roll call vote. JJ aye; BK aye; RL aye; BS aye; HS aye; MW aye, GS aye. Monitors: BS, JJ.

Preliminary Review, 1868 Main Road – Owner Paul Dobbins and consulting designer (Grog?) reviewed plans to repair and restore a circa 1950 house, including relocation/replacement of existing doors and windows; replacement of “dog house” dormers with two shed dormers; extension of deck with addition of screened-in porch. It was noted that the interior was gutted by the new owner; exterior photos and elevations have been submitted for Commission review. One of the proposed shed dormers would have five windows, and the other would have two windows. The front door would be relocated to create a small vestibule inside, of wood construction with two small lights at the top. RL questioned the number of lights in the proposed windows; BK followed up with questions about the brand of windows to be used (Anderson 400 Series), and the proportions of light dividers and trim. No action taken, pending receipt of revised plans.

Preliminary Review, 2042 Main Road – Owner Patrick Long, represented by architect William Underwood, presented several options for raising the roof of an existing outbuilding to the right of the house, currently used as garage and storage space. The alterations are proposed to increase the headroom of the structure, allowing increased storage space on the second floor. Technical issues with

the online meeting platform resulted in some Commission members unable to see the sketches showing elevations and alteration options. The first proposal was to add shed dormers with small windows on the north and south sides of the roof; the second option was to raise the existing roof about 2.5 to 3 feet and move the existing gable window upward. JJ questioned the visibility from Route 88 and Main Road; GS asked how the higher roof might impact views from neighboring properties. BK agreed that the second proposal would create an outbuilding that is similar to other outbuildings in the neighborhood, and would be his preference of the two options.

Susanne Peck, resident of 2041 Main Road, called in to support the second option, as it would have less impact on her view from across the street. RL asked that detail photos of the lot be included with the submitted application that will come in; he also suggested the historic building inventory be consulted to see if information was available on the original appearance of the building. Mr. Underwood said it has a stone foundation, indicating an earlier existence before the 1900s repairs or alterations were done, creating the current appearance. BS asked if the first proposal could be altered to reduce the height increase to two feet. No action, an application to be filed.

GENERAL BUSINESS

1. Monitor's Reports: BK reported on conversations with the contractor who will be moving the building at Weatherlow Farm. GS added that he and BK had verbally endorsed a change of trim color from white to green to match other buildings on site.
2. Certificates of Non-Applicability: None.
3. New Business: There was some discussion of plans for the November meeting, with general agreement that the Commission would return to in-person meetings at Town Hall. Members who cannot attend will have the option of requesting remote participation.

Adjournment: With no other business, BK made a motion at 7:50 p.m. to adjourn the meeting; seconded by BS. The motion passed on a 7-0 roll call vote – JJ aye; BK aye; RL aye; BS aye; HS aye; MW aye; CB aye.

Approved: 11/1/21