

**Westport Historical Commission
Meeting of Dec. 6, 2021
at Town Hall**

In attendance were Commission Chair Rud Lawrence (RL), members Caroline Bolter (CB), Michael Walden (MW), Bill Kendall (BK), 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 and KA named to serve as voting members.

Minutes: The Nov. 1, 2021 meeting minutes were reviewed. CB noted a correction in the notes on the 2042 Main Road hearing, indicating the window would be raised two and a half feet, not three feet. MOTION by CB to approve the Nov. 1, 2021 minutes with that correction. Seconded by BK; the motion passed on a 7-0 vote.

Treasurer's Report: GS provided a financial report dated 12-6-21 showing current expenses and balances in various trust fund accounts.

MOTION by BK to accept the Treasurer's Report dated 12-6-21. Seconded by MW, the motion passed on a 7-0 vote.

GENERAL BUSINESS

1. Monitor's Reports: BK reported that the foundation for the house to be moved at Weatherlow Farm had not been completed.

2. Certificates of Non-Applicability: CB reported that Henry Swan had applied for a Certificate of Non-Applicability for the proposed replacement of the front door and storm door; the Paquachuck Inn had applied for a Certificate for roof repair work, like for like materials.

3. Meeting Schedule: The recording clerk was asked to produce a draft meeting schedule for 2022 for member review, and to update the member contact list. It was noted that the next scheduled meeting will be Jan. 3, 2022.

HEARINGS/REVIEWS

6:10 p.m. Hearing: 1936 Main Rd. - proposal to replace two wood garage doors with steel doors. Owner Larry Borges detailed the proposed installation of two galvanized steel doors, painted black, and provided specifications for the proposed doors and photos of the existing doors. CB noted the doors are barely visible from Main Road. MW pointed out that the windows in the proposed doors are much shorter than the current windows, and do not replicate what is there now. BK noted the existing doors are a typical 1950s style, while the replacement doors are a more modern design. He also pointed out there are no specific WHC guidelines for garage doors. The owner said he would investigate the possibility of ordering the doors with larger windows.

MOTION by BK to approve a Certificate of Appropriateness for the proposed garage doors. Seconded by GS. The motion passed on a 7-0 vote. GS and CB volunteered to serve as monitors.

6:15 p.m. Hearing: 1823 Main Rd. – Proposal to install an aluminum access ramp. Kirsten Newcomer, daughter of property owner Grace Newcomer, showed a schematic layout and street view of the proposed aluminum ramp. The steps and cobblestone walkway will remain unchanged, and the ramp

will be removed after it is no longer needed. Ms. Newcomer noted that the application includes the binding promise that the ramp will be removed after the current need ends.

MOTION by GS to approve the Certificate of Appropriateness for the proposed ramp. Seconded by CB. The motion passed on a 7-0 vote. GS and CB volunteered to serve as monitors.

6:20 p.m. Hearing: 1868 Main Rd. - Renovations and alterations to all 4 facades. Gregory Nowell, architect and builder representing owners Amy Sanders and Paul Dobbins, presented plans for the renovation of the former Denton house, empty for a number of years. Built in 1950, it is a Classic Cape reproduction sitting on a concrete block foundation. Mr. Nowell detailed the proposed renovations to each façade, the addition of two full dormers, and use of Anderson 400 Woodwright Series windows of various sizes. The exterior will be re-shingled with white cedar shingles; existing aluminum gutters will be re-used. GS asked for more details on the proposed deck, being told the materials would be natural red cedar, slatted horizontally for increased privacy; he suggested the design was more modern than traditional. BK asked about the front door, and was told a one and three-quarter inch thick wooden door with two window lights would be installed. CB questioned the modern look of the steel overhead doors proposed for the garage, noting the garage is highly visible from the road. An abutter present voiced her support for the plans, and it was suggested that other neighbors were supportive of the renovations proposed.

MOTION by BK to approve the application for a Certificate of Appropriateness for the plans presented. Seconded by MW. The motion passed on a 7-0 vote. GS and MW volunteered to serve as monitors.

3. New Business: Discussion about Gray's Grist Mill. The Chair reported on the receipt of a memo from Community Preservation Committee Chair Betty Slade, reporting the recent death of grist mill owner Ralph Guild. There is an historical restriction on the property, The Chair suggested the Historical Commission should update the file in the town's historic building inventory, and proposed that a consultant be hired to help prepare the application for replacement of the Mass. Historical Commission file.

MOTION by BK to appoint a subcommittee including GS and KA to research the building's history, and help a consultant submit a revised file to the MHC. Seconded by MW, the motion passed on a 7-0 vote.

Adjournment:

MOTION by BK at 7:05 p.m. to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by MW. The motion passed on a 7-0 vote.