

Westport Historical Commission
Virtual Meeting of March 1, 2021
Google Meet (yws-jqan-hhq for all online meetings)

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

1. The meeting was called to order by the Chair (RL) at 6:00 p.m. with the above members participating.

2. Minutes: The Feb. 1, 2021 meeting minutes were reviewed, with several small amendments made by the chair. BS made a motion to approve the minutes as amended, seconded by BK; the motion passed on a 7-0 roll call vote – CB aye; JJ aye; BK aye; RL aye; HS aye; MW aye; GS aye.

3. Treasurer's Report: No report. With BS joining the meeting, GS reverted to alternate voting status.

4. Certificates of Appropriateness:

6:05 p.m. – 1878B Drift Road, Additions, Application by Christine Conway, represented by Timothy Lund. The chair noted that the condominium association had sent documentation on its approval of the addition plans; Mr. Lund reviewed the drawings and elevations submitted with the application, indicating the proposed addition would enclose the middle part of the current H-shaped structure. There were no comments from abutters; the general consensus of the commission was that it was a good plan. BK made a motion to approve the certificate, seconded by CB. The motion passed on a 6-0-1 roll call vote: CB aye; JJ aye; BK aye; RL aye; BS aye, MW aye; HS abstained, declaring he is an abutter. MW and BS volunteered to serve as monitors.

6:15 p.m. – 1976 Main Road, replacement of 17 windows, Application by Jim Acierno. BK opened the hearing with a discussion of the difference between the insert units proposed and other replacement windows, and detailed the finding of a recent site visit. He indicated the building currently has 1940-1950 era windows, meant to be near replicas of the original Greek Revival/Late Federal windows. BK suggested the proposed replacement inserts were not consistent with the architectural style of the home. Mr. Acierno indicated he was seeking alternative window replacement options, and planned to resubmit the application at a later date. HS made a motion to deny the certificate, seconded by BS; the vote was 7-0 by roll call: CB aye; JJ aye; BK aye; RL aye; BS aye, MW aye; HS aye.

CB mentioned that a certificate application had been received for the front door replacement at 1976 Main Road, past the deadline for filings. Mr. Acierno said he was withdrawing that application. Audience member Betty Slade offered to provide the names of local contractors specializing in work on homes in the historic district.

6:30 p.m. – John Bell called into the meeting to discuss the historic stone marker at the corner of Sodom Road and American Legion Highway, a marker on the town list of historic places. He reported on a 2019 vandalizing incident, and a later case where the stone was hit by a tractor trailer truck. He proposed to relocate the marker to a safer location owned by the Westport Land Trust, close by the original site. Ms. Slade noted that generally, historic markers should not be moved, but moves are permissible if the Historical Commission approves, and a new form is filed with the Mass. Historical Commission. CB made a motion to authorize the move, contingent on Land Trust approval, seconded by BS; the motion passed

on a 7-0 roll call vote: CB aye; JJ aye; BK aye; RL aye; BS aye, MW aye; HS aye. Mr. Bell asked to be put on the next agenda to report on his efforts to secure permission.

General Business

1. Monitor's Reports: BK asked about the status of 1871 Main Road? RL reported on the work ongoing at 1881 Main Road (Ferrari).

2. Certificates of Non-Applicability: None.

3. New Business: CB reported on a web inquiry, and suggested a new email address be obtained from the town IT department. She also reported on her participation in the public hearing on the appeal of the rejection of the application for the cell phone tower proposed on Drift Road. It was noted that the applicant is seeking a variance from the Zoning Board of Appeals for the structure, and members can contact that board if they oppose the variance.

A motion to adjourn the meeting came at 7:01 p.m. from HS, seconded by CB. The motion passed on a 7-0 roll call vote: CB aye; JJ aye; BK aye; RL aye; BS aye, MW aye; HS aye.