

## **Westport Historical Commission**

Meeting of July 1, 2019

Vice Chair Bill Kendall opened the meeting in the basement meeting room at Town Hall at 6 p.m.

**Present:** Members Henry Swan (HS), Caroline Bolter (CB), Janet Jones (JJ), Bill Kendall (BK), Michael Walden (MW), Beverly Schuch (BS), Garrett Stuck (GS).

**Others In Attendance:** Nathaniel Allen, Stephen Fletcher.

**Minutes:** The minutes of the June 3, 2019 meeting were reviewed, with JJ making a motion to approve the minutes as presented; seconded by MW; the vote was 7-0 in favor.

**Treasurer's Report:** GS presented an update on commission accounts and financial activity dated 7/1/19. JJ made a motion to accept the report, seconded by BS; the vote was unanimous, 7-0 in favor.

### **GENERAL BUSINESS**

1. **Applications for Certificates of Non-Applicability:** CB reported the receipt of applications from: Pierce Realty Trust, 2043 Main Street, roof and chimney work, like for like; Elizabeth and Jeffrey Wade, 2034 Main Street, replace lattice and seats; Martin Kelley, 2023 Main Road, re-roofing, like for like; Catherine and Victoria Reppert, 1990 Main Road, replace roof; Nils Brazelius, 1973 Main Road, rebuild chimney. BS explained the past and present commission policies for reviewing applications for certificates, for the benefit of the newer members.

2. **Monitors Reports:** HS reported the installation of solar panels at 6 Windward Way; windows and shingle work also appears to be done.

3. **Demolition Hearing,** 6:10 p.m. Robert M. Pozzo, 406 Horseneck Road

It was noted that the property is in the town's inventory of historic buildings as the Sherman-Sylvia House, a Greek Revival single family house built circa 1835. The Mass. Cultural Resource Information System report and a survey report from NDA Restoration, Inc. was distributed to commission members. Mr. Pozzo indicated that he owns 14 acres across the street from this recently-purchased property, which has been vacant for 20-25 years. He plans to demolish the existing garage and hopes to find someone willing to move the house to a new location, or dismantle the structure for reconstruction elsewhere.

BK explained that a demolition delay of up to one year is allowed by town regulations if the building is determined to be historically or architecturally significant, and the commission determines it should preferably be preserved and a delay is voted. Personally, he felt the house should be saved, as it is "a time capsule" of that era, and a fine example of a Greek Revival home. HS indicated that he drove by the property, and feels the house should be saved or moved. The garage doesn't seem to have any historic value, he suggested.

Mr. Pozzo stated that there are three known parties interested in moving or dismantling the house; a builder he consulted felt the house could not be moved, and would have to be dismantled. Historic carpenter Nathaniel Allen of NDA Restoration was present, and presented his report on his inspection, finding the house to have a solid post and beam frame, and all the original architectural features were intact. His summary indicated he felt the house should be saved. BS made a motion to delay the demolition, as the house should be preferably preserved; seconded by JJ; the vote was 7-0 in favor. JJ

made a motion to delay demolition for up to one year; seconded by BS. The vote was 7-0 in favor. BK advised Mr. Pozzo that he should return for approval of plans for the relocation or dismantling of the house; if no progress is made within a year, he will be allowed to demolish the structure.

4. Preliminary Review: 1945 Main Road, owner Caroline Bolter, proposing the replacement of the original lattice arch over the front door. There was some discussion of the benches flanking the front door, as seen in an old photograph, with CB indicating she did not wish to replace the benches. After some discussion, members were in general agreement that the restoration should proceed, and an application for a Certificate of Appropriateness should be filed.

**ADJOURNMENT:** With no other business on the agenda, BS made a motion at 6:45 p.m. to adjourn the meeting, seconded by JJ. The vote was unanimous, 7-0, in favor.

**ATTACHMENTS:** Treasurer's report, MACRIS file info for 406 Horseneck Road.

Approved: 8/5/19