

Westport Historical Commission  
July 2, 2018 Meeting Minutes

**Present:** Members: Bill Kendall (BK), Janet Jones (JJ), Beverly Schuch (BS), Geraldine Millham (GM), Rud Lawrence (RL), Caroline Bolter (CB). Alternates: David Paddock (DP).

**Absent:** None

**Others in Attendance:** Richard Brewer

Chair Bill Kendall (BK) opened the meeting at 6 p.m. in the basement meeting room of Town Hall. BK introduced new recording clerk Robert Barboza to commission members. He noted that former recording clerk Jane Loos did not apply for reappointment to the commission, and is no longer a member; she has offered to help the new recording clerk and commission clerk/secretary with their duties during the transition period.

## **A. GENERAL BUSINESS**

### **1. Annual Election of Officers**

BK called for nominations of a new board chair. JJ nominated BK, but he declined to serve another term. BK nominated RL, BL seconded the motion, and the vote was unanimous. BS nominated BK as vice chair, seconded by JJ; the vote was unanimous. BK nominated GM as treasurer, seconded by RL; the vote was unanimous. CB was nominated as clerk/secretary by BK, with the motion seconded by RL; the vote was unanimous. BK nominated JJ as the commission representative to the Community Preservation Committee, seconded by RL, and approved by unanimous vote.

### **2. Minutes of June 4, 2018 Meeting**

RL made a motion to approve the minutes of the June 4, 2018 meeting with an amendment to agenda item C, Reconsideration of vote on Certificate of Appropriateness for 1878C Drift Road, to read: 1. BK reported that he had requested an opinion through Tim King to Town Counsel on whether the WHC acted appropriately in denying the owners of 1878C Drift Road, Paul and Marita Pinet, a Certificate of Appropriateness based on objections from the Westport Point Condominium owners' lawyer. Town Council advised that "the Commission not take this dispute into consideration in reviewing the request for a certificate of appropriateness, or base its decision in any way upon the property rights of the applicants. I recommend that, as soon as possible, the Commission vote to reconsider its prior vote to deny the Pinets' application for a certificate of appropriateness, and take a new vote based solely on the relevant criteria for approval/denial." Opinion attached. The amendment included correction of several spelling errors in the document. Seconded by JJ, the vote was 4-0-2, with RL and BS abstaining as they were not present at that meeting.

### **3. Treasurer's Report**

GM indicated she had requested commission account information, but had not yet received it, so this agenda item was passed over.

## **B. Public Hearing**

A public hearing on the application of Richard and Barbara Brewer, 1994 Main Road, to add railings to the front steps of the house was opened at 6:15 p.m. Mr. Brewer said the house was built circa 1910, and he believes it is a Sears kit house. He proposed the installation of hand rails on the front steps "identical" to the adjoining porch railings. As there were no engineer's drawings included in the

application, it was specified that the certificate of appropriateness issued should include submitted photographs of the planned work. RL made a motion, seconded by HS, that the certificate should specify the installation of wood rails of the same dimensions, proportions, materials and paint color as the porch railings; with the ground level posts to abut the existing granite steps. The vote to approve was unanimous, with BS assigned as monitor for the project.

### **C. Other Business**

#### **1. Bylaw Amendment**

BK noted that the bylaw amendment was withdrawn from the annual town meeting warrant. Mr. Brewer indicated that some of the revisions raised concerns from the neighborhood association, and some opposition from residents may be expected; BK noted that other historical commissions routinely deal with plans concerning roofs, stone walls and fences, and he feels those provisions are important to be retained.

#### **2. Monitors Reports**

CB indicated no building permit or construction started at 1871 Main Road, and no construction taking place at 1881 Main Road; BS reported the outbuilding at 2010 Main Road was nearly completed, and the Anders and Jennifer Newcomer project at 1903 Main Road is still underway; RL indicated that work on 1813 Main Road is nearly finished.

#### **3. Applications for Certificate on Non-Applicability**

HS reported receiving his certificate in the mail. There was some discussion of the procedure and timetable for filling out the forms.

### **Other Business**

#### **1. Next Meeting**

The next scheduled meeting will be Monday, Aug. 6.

#### **2. Adjournment**

RL made a motion to adjourn at 6:40 p.m., seconded by JJ. The vote was unanimous.