

Town of Suffield Historic District Commission

Minutes of Meeting – March 2, 6:30 P.M.
Suffield Town Hall – 2nd Floor Conference Room

Present: David Bahlman, Brendan Begley, Scott MacClintic, Melissa Mack
Doug Mayne, John Schwemmer, Margery Warren

David Bahlman called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

No one from the public had items for public comment.

David Bahlman asked for a motion to approve the Minutes of the January 5, 2015 meeting. Moved by Melissa Mack. Seconded by John Schwemmer. There were no corrections or additions to the Minutes. Motion approved unanimously.

Architectural Survey Meeting with Heritage Consultants, LLC

David George and Lucas Karmazinas were present on behalf of Heritage Consultants, LLC to discuss issues relating to the architectural survey update. Also in attendance was Mary Dunne, HDC Coordination for the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) and Lester Smith, local historian.

Much discussion followed concerning requirements for the survey as imposed by the SHPO, as the survey is being funded by the SHPO through their Supplemental Certified Local Government Grant program. The current \$30,000 grant will fund approximately 200 updated and new survey forms, and all present agreed that the composition of the survey should reflect architectural resources from all parts of town and include all architectural periods of significance. Digitization of the survey and inclusion as a link on the Town of Suffield website was also discussed.

Lucas Karmazinas reported that he would begin the fieldwork within a few weeks, and would probably have a preliminary list of survey structures for the HDC to review by the April meeting. The HDC agreed

that the property owners of these initial survey structures should be notified by mail of the survey. It was also agreed that the Suffield Police Department should be made aware of the survey, and that there should be an announcement of the survey on the town website.

Lester Smith offered to publish an informational piece on the survey in the April issue of the Suffield Observer.

Application for a Certificate of Appropriateness: 384 S. Main St.

Present on behalf of the project were owner Deb Desmond and her son, Neil, as well as Mike Hubbard, general contractor. The proposal for the fire-damaged structure was to restore the structure, replacing the windows, 2 front doors, and damaged siding on the rear elevation of the building.

A new code requirement for child safety locks on any window more than 6 feet above grade was discussed, and since the Harvey Majestic windows that the owner was proposing to use did not have child locks, the owner and general contractor agreed that more research on code-compliant windows that would be acceptable to the HDC needed to be done. The issue of window opening size and compliance with existing codes for emergency ingress and egress was also discussed, and it was agreed that in order to not change existing window sizes on the 2nd story, casement windows would be researched as an alternative to enlarging window openings.

The HDC agreed to reconvene for resolution of all C of A issues after the owner and general contractor completed the necessary research.

Informational Items

Commission members discussed four items: possible plans for the rehabilitation of 34 S. Main Street; the status of a response to the HDC's letter to the Suffield Academy (October, 2014) regarding the Gay Manse; a new Suffield traffic Abatement initiative; issues being addressed by the Suffield Charter Reform Committee.

As to a possible Charter Reform Committee recommendation that Suffield boards and commissions be reduced in size, HDC members were reminded of the fact that the Historic District Commission was established and operates under Connecticut General Statute, Sec. 7-147 c (d), which requires 5 regular and 3 alternative members. It was agreed that the Charter Reform Committee should be made aware of this fact and that they should recommend that an additional alternate member of the HDC be appointed in order to comply with state requirements.

Adjournment

John Schwemmer moved to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Scott MacClintic. Passed unanimously.