

Town of Suffield Historic District Commission

**Minutes of Meeting - May 5, 2014  
Second Floor Conference Room - Suffield Town Hall  
7:30 P.M.**

Present: Doug Mayne (Chairperson), Brendan Begley, David Bahlman  
John Schwemmer, Margery Warren, Scott MacClintic  
Absent: Skip Edmonds

Secretary Brendan Begley called the meeting to order at 7:30, and reviewed the agenda. Commissioner Begley made a motion to add 225 South Main Street to the agenda, as owner Erin Golembieski was attending the meeting for preliminary review of a window project. Seconded by Commissioner Schwemmer. Passed. John Schwemmer made a motion to add to the agenda a discussion of the Suffield Academy's plans for a temporary parking lot on Main Street associated with the construction to take place at Brewster Hall. Seconded by Commissioner Bahlman. Passed.

**Agenda Items To Consider Applications for a Certificate of Appropriateness:**

**78 South Main Street: Office Addition on the North Side of the Residence**

Present to speak on behalf of the project were Robert Sobinski, architect, and the owner, Janet Leishman. Plans and elevation drawings for the project were reviewed by the Commission and determined to be acceptable in design and materials, except for the proposal to use Azek for the exterior trim details. Commissioner Mayne moved to accept the application with the proposed Marvin simulated divided light windows and with solid wood exterior trim rather than Azek trim details (including corner piers, cornice and raised or recessed panels and moldings). Seconded by Commissioner MacClintic. Passed unanimously.

### **523 North Main Street: Front Porch deck and Step Repair**

Present to speak on behalf of the project was owner Peter Hill. Photographs of the present condition of the porch deck and steps were presented by Mr. Hill, and he discussed his plans to install a new wooden deck and steps to match the existing (replacement in kind). It was suggested by Commission Mayne that the diagonal latticework below the deck be replaced with higher quality wood orthogonal lattice. Commissioner Bahlman moved to accept the application. Seconded by Commissioner Warren. Passed unanimously.

### **225 South Main Street: Preliminary Review of Window Replacement**

Erin Golembieski, owner of 225 South Main Street, presented her plan to replace a shuttered window in the upper right hand corner of the south elevation of the original portion of the structure. The proposed replacement window would match in configuration a replacement window that was approved in 2013 by the Historic District Commission for the second story above a porch on the south elevation of an addition to the original structure. Commissioners indicated that they would not favor approval of such a window reconfiguration on a much more visible elevation of the original structure, and advised investigation of an alternative plan that would preserve the original window opening. It was agreed that a revised proposal would be officially reviewed at the June 2, 2014 meeting.

### **Temporary Parking Lot on Main Street (South of 180 North Main), Suffield Academy, Brewster Hall Project**

One detail of the Brewster Hall addition project that was not discussed by Patrick Booth at a previous meeting was the Academy's desire to install a temporary graveled parking lot for those working on the Brewster Hall addition. The proposed parking lot installation came unofficially to the attention of the Commission after the meeting. The initial proposal included plans for a high dirt berm with shrubberies along Main Street to visually block the parking lot. Commissioner Bahlman reported that he called Partrick Booth to confirm that the lot would be temporary and requested that such a high berm not be implemented, as such a "structure" would negatively impact the integrity of the historic district.

Mr. Booth responded that the berm idea had come from the parking lot contractor, and that he (Mr. Booth), in fact, would prefer just a low hedge with no berm, and committed to a revision of the plan to include just a hedge along the Main Street side of the temporary parking lot.

### **Certified Local Government Grant Application**

Commissioner Bahlman reported on the progress of a CLG grant application for the updating and digitizing of the 1979 Capitol Region Council of Governments' Survey of Historic and Architectural Resources for the Town of Suffield. The maximum grant amount of \$30,000 would be a non-matching grant funded by the CT Community Investment Act and administered by the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO). This amount would be sufficient to update approximately 50% of the listings in the survey. A second grant could be applied for after the completion of the first grant project. A completed application will be presented to the Commission by Commissioner Bahlman at the June 2nd meeting for approval. The deadline for application submission to the SHPO is the 10th of each month.

### **Historic Properties and Historic District Mapping**

Commissioner Schwemmer presented three color coded maps relating to historic properties in Suffield that were created by Eric Jespersen, a student in Environmental Science (Geography & Regional Planning) and an intern for the Town of Suffield. Working with suggestions from Commissioner Schwemmer, Eric created three maps: 1) Historic Properties in the Town of Suffield; 2) Building Age by Fifty Year Division; 3) Building Age by Architectural Period. The Commission discussed the utility of these maps, offered suggestions on further development of such maps, and thanked Commissioner Schwemmer for his valuable time and input in the project.

### **Adjournment**

A motion to adjourn was made and seconded. Passed unanimously.

