

Suffield Historic District Commission Minutes  
June 6, 2016 7:00 PM  
Suffield Town Hall 83 Mountain Road

Attending members  
Doug Mayne  
Lisa Sabbatino  
Cami Beiter  
John Schwemmer  
Scott MacClintic  
Brendan Begley

Presentation of completed Suffield Historic Resources Inventory Study by Lucas A. Karmazinas or the Town of Suffield from 7:00 pm 8:00 pm. Lucas narrated a slide show showing example of many homes of interest from the early 1700's until the 1940's located east of main street (one property on Russell Avenue was also noted). An area especially noted in Lucas presentation was the homes located in "Bridge Area" of Suffield where, the long removed bridge, from Suffield to Thompsonville was previously located at the east end of Thompsonville Road. This study and presentation will be available on the town web site shortly.

281 N. Main Street – Proposed 12 x 20 shed to be located at the rear of the property (James and Laurie Henderson) HDC asked that the applicant provide a site plan or plot plan showing the proposed location of the shed and photographs or drawings showing all four sides of the structure to the Chairperson. The Chair then can distribute these to the members. Application tabled with request for more details.

318 N. Main Street – Proposed Comprehensive Renovations and additions to house and barn (Owners Mark and Dawn Vandevanter). Architect Jack Kemper of Farmington CT, Kemper Associates Architects, LLC presented the proposed changes to the home and barn. The HDC thanked the applicant for the detailed drawings and presentation. The HDC agreed that existing front door to be continued to be used, that on the existing house all siding and trim to be replaced in kind, that all existing window sizes or configuration on the house to be maintained, one of the existing front doors to be removed and replaced with siding and trim material existing on the house and a stain glass window replicating stain glass window existing on the house, front porch steps to be modified to meet current code riser using existing materials, existing entrance, over hang and small landing to be removed from south elevation of the house and opening enclosed with wood siding match existing siding on the house, current painted metal roofing on over hangs to be replaced with new copper roofing materials, and removal of porch on east elevation of the house with lower half to be enclosed as living space to be sided and trimmed with same materials as existing on the house. The HDC then expressed concerns about the proposed changes to the barn, the HDC asked that a copula not be added, that a dormer on the south elevation of the barn not be added and that the existing window pattern and that the "salt box" shape of the existing barn not be altered. Architect Kemper agreed to redraw the barn portion of the project and attempt

to address the concerns of the HDC along with the needs of the applicant's family. After much discussion a motion was made by Commissioner Schwemmer that the application be approved from the existing house and new proposed addition up to the point of connection to the existing barn (the existing barn to remain as is for now until applicant returns) and that brick matching the existing chimney be used as the material for the new chimney on the north elevation, the proposed stain glass window on the west elevation replicate the existing stain glass window on the home. The Barn and the replacement windows were not approved HDC and will be reviewed at a future presentation to the HDC. Seconded by Chairperson Mayne. Motion passed unanimously.

227 N. Main Street – Proposed Dormitories including barn demolition (Suffield Academy) Patrick Booth, Academy CFO and Marco Tommasini Architect presented updated plans based on the suggestions from the last HDC meeting for two proposed dormitories along with the finding for applicant of saving the barn. The applicant presented drawing of the four elevations as suggested by the HDC, which turned the two buildings profile so that the smaller gable ended portions facing Main Street. The HDC agreed that changing of the profile present to Main Street was an improvement. The HDC then discussed the saving of the existing barn. The applicant stated that saving the barn had been considered and that their findings indicate that only a portion of the structure might be saved in efforts such as attempting to preserve this barn. The HDC asked the Academy to review leaving the barn as is, maintaining the barn and its structural integrity, and present a plan for the north dormitory with the barn located where it currently is and preserving the existing structure by incorporating it into the design. The HDC expressed great concerns that these structures are being lost forever each year throughout our community and it is the responsibility of the Commission to do everything it can to preserve them. After much discussion Commissioner Schwemmer made a motion that the “South Dormitory be approved as presented and the “North Dormitory” be rejected as the existing barn needs to be preserved. Commissioner MacClintic seconded. Motion passed unanimously with Commissioner Beiter abstaining.

Motion made and approved to adjourn meeting at 11:00 pm.

Brendan