

Town of Suffield Historic District Commission

Minutes of Meeting – January 6, 2014 Held on the second floor of Suffield Town Hall At 7:30 PM

Present were David Bahlman (Acting Chairperson), Commissioner's Margery Warren, Scott MacClintic, John Schwemmer, and Brendan Begley. Citizens David Mason, Thomas Wardell, Mark Cigal and Cathie Ellithorpe

Minutes

David Bahlman called the meeting to order at 7:30 in the second Town Hall meeting room.

Roll Call: Present Commissioners Warren, MacClintic, Bahlman, Schwemmer, and Begley

Motion to approve the Minutes of the December 2, 2013 meeting was made by Member MacClintic and seconded Member Warren. Motion passed unanimously.

First item of new business:

- **Proposed new dormer windows over garage at Mason residence, 938 Hill Street.**

Mr. Mason presented a hand drawing of proposed dormer with windows above the garage at 938 Hill Street. The residence with attached garage structure is approximately fifteen years old. Applicant plans to match windows and window trim from existing building.

After discussion, the applicant agreed to return to the February HDC meeting with more detailed working drawings, namely west and south elevation drawings of the proposed new construction.

First item of old business:

- **Certificate of appropriateness for windows at 63 High Street, First Church**

Thomas Wardell returned as the representative of the First Church of Christ Congregation, owner of the parsonage house at 63 High Street. First Church was granted a certificate of appropriateness by the HDC to replace the windows with wood replacement windows after our November 2013 meeting. Mr. Wardell thanked the HDC for the certificate, but he was returning to discuss if the HDC might consider changing the certificate to allow for Ultra Fit by Trimline aluminum clad sash kits in place of the wooden windows approved earlier. Mr. Wardell explained that the additional cost to the church for painting the wooden windows was approximately \$2,200 and that there would be future on going maintenance costs regarding the

wood windows. Mr. Wardell and Mr. Cigal explained that the new windows will be re-covered by the aluminum storm windows, as the windows currently in place. Wardell & Cigal believed that the new windows will be difficult to see from the sidewalk as the house is explained set back way from High Street. They also explained that the new windows are being installed on a house that has been covered in aluminum siding. This means that these new wood windows will be the only visible wood besides the wood porch with wood columns, wood rails, and wood balusters. The First Church of Christ Congregation asked that the HDC consider these factors in considering allowing aluminum clad sash kits for the project.

After discussion the HDC members stated that the Commission understood the concerns of the First Church and agreed that the home has had many inappropriate changes made to the exterior of the home. The HDC expressed its wishes that these changes had not been done and also believes that these changes had not been approved by the HDC in the past. Considering many factors, namely the house's prominence on the Town Green, the home's location the hill of High Street adjacent to the church, and the 1908 home's listing on the National Register of Historic Properties (described in the National Register nomination as a 1908 Square, pyramidal-roofed, clapboard, Classic Revival house with hipped roof dormers in each roof slope. The roof is covered with slates. The square entrance portico has a balustrade with tall, thin balusters), the HDC agreed that the Certificate of Appropriateness should stand as issued.

- **Discussion on work done of the removal of a chimney at 435 North Main Street.**

Members agreed to check with building inspector and to continue the discussion until the February 2014 meeting.

Meeting adjourned 8:35

Brendan Begley Secretary.