

Town of Suffield Historical District Commission

Minutes of Meeting – August 5, 2013 Held on the second floor of Suffield Town Hall At 7:30 PM

Present were Doug Mayne (Chairperson), Danna Gaunter, Margery Warren, Skip Edmonds, and Gil Ahrens.
Citizen input from Erin Golembiewski - 225 South Main Street, and Lester Smith - 39 Marbern Drive.

Minutes

Doug Mayne began the informal meeting at 7:30

Roll Call: Present Chairperson Mayne, Gaunter, Warren, Edmonds, and Ahrens.

To consider the following:

1. Proposed limited window replacement / resizing on north and south sides of house at 225 South Main Street. Review of additional material.

Mrs. Golembiewski presented additional window information and design approach as requested by the HDC at the July meeting. The new material included window manufacture and type as well as the owners particular design approach for the new windows subject to replacement. The application as amended by the new information was approved. The vote was unanimous.

2. Discuss new members and officers.

Commission membership was discussed. Three members officially announced their resignation from the commission for various reasons. Long term members Tom Deupree (resident status), Gil Ahrens (health issues) as well as Danna Gauntner (time constraints) announced / discussed their decisions to resign. They were thanked for their many years of service.

New Candidate members that had been identified at previous meetings were discussed. Both Scott MacClintic of South Main Street and David Ballman of North Main St., were considered by the current membership to be qualified candidates and both have expressed interest in membership. As has been customary in the past, it was decided to present these two candidates to the First Selectman's office for their consideration. That leaves the commission with one additional position to fill.

New Business

The commission discussed the status of the Gay Manse renovation. The following is a summary of the HDC negotiations with Suffield Academy as presented / directed by Tom Deupree.

1. A series of meetings were held with the academy to clarify historic district standards and intent, discuss why / how this project failed to meet standards / expectations, and find ways to correct problematic Gay Manse trim issues.
2. All trim for the house is not to historic district standards, but the focus of negotiations for proposed corrective work was the distinctive front door surround which includes the pediment and two jamb pilasters and associated details.
3. The Academy along with Mr Deupree agreed to review quotes from two qualified contractors for a historically correct version of the doorway surround in lieu of the installed surround which did not replicate the original.
4. The Academy requested detailed direction for corrective work from the Commission as a whole and are as follows:
 - a. Corrective work to be limited to the front door surround.
 - b. Corrective work to be exact replica of original doorway (now lost). Basis for design and dimensions of replacement work to be based on HABS drawings furnished by Mr. Deupree.
 - c. Shop drawings for the replacement pilasters to be presented to the Commission for review and approval prior to installation.
 - d. The re-done pediment that has already been installed to be reviewed for acceptability after this meeting and in conjunction with pilaster re-work for compatibility.
 - e. The re-done pediment Rosettes although not per original to be reviewed for acceptability.
 - f. PVC trim would likely not have been approved if presented. Since the balance of the installed house trim is not to be re-done and is to remain, PVC will be acceptable (though not desirable) for new re-work.

Public Comment:

Lester Smith of 39 Marbern Drive presented the letter the Suffield Historical Society sent to Suffield Academy and outlined his concerns for how the Gay Manse project was characterized and for misc. errors in the *SUFFIELD* magazine article.

Meeting adjourned 9:30p

Douglas Mayne – HDC Chairman