

**TOWN OF CHAPLIN, CONNECTICUT
HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION**

**MINUTES OF A PUBLIC HEARING AND BUSINESS MEETING
HELD ON May 14th, 2013 IN THE CONFERENCE RM, CHAPLIN LIBRARY**

Public Hearing

Jean Givens, Chair, called the hearing to order at 7:15 PM. Members present were Warren Church (vice chair), Marvin Cox (alternate), Jean Givens (chair), Kitty LeShay, Catherine Lynch (secretary), and Catherine Smith (alternate). Catherine Smith was seated for the absent John Meyer. Also present was Eleanor DeVane.

Givens read the public notice published in *the Chronicle* on May 9th, 2013, regarding a May 14th hearing of the Chaplin Historic District Commission on the application for a Certificate of Appropriateness by Eleanor DeVane for the installation of a wood fence with arbor and a light fixture at 73 Chaplin Street.

DeVane described a proposed square picket fence to run 13' from the northeast corner of the garage to the southwest corner of the house along the easterly edge of the existing patio, in a design based on early nineteenth century styles found in reference books. The pickets would be "2x2" (actual measurement 1 3/8" square) with capped, square "6x6" posts. The end posts would be just shy of and not attached to the corners of the garage and house. The center 4' of the fence would contain a gate and arbor (projecting 2' 5 1/2"), centered over the existing brick walkway. DeVane's presentation was accompanied by detailed specifications from the New England Cedar Fence. She expects the installation to be performed by Jim Campiformio.

DeVane augmented her application, beyond the original submission, with a proposal to install edging along the existing brick walkway parallel to the south end of the house to address a problem with soil washing over and burying the walkway. DeVane presented samples of the edging material, terracotta edging blocks with the exposed portion in the style of twisted rope roughly 2" in diameter and terracotta, ball-capped end posts.

DeVane proposed removing an existing, modern flood light on the upper northeast corner of the garage, facing the street, and replacing it with a new fixture centered on the same wall, to the north of the garage bay openings and facing the street. The new fixture would be a brass, "onion" globe lantern, 11' wide and 21 1/2" high, manufactured by Brass Traditions, Malco Inc.

The hearing closed at 7:40 PM.

Business Meeting

The meeting opened at 7:40 PM. The same members and guest were present.

1. Approval of the minutes. Smith **moved** and LeShay **seconded** approval of the minutes of April 23rd, 2013. The motion passed unanimously.

2. Consideration of the application from Eleanor DeVane. Church **moved** and Lynch **seconded** approval of DeVane's application for a Certificate of Appropriateness for the fence with arbor, light fixture, and new edging on the walkway. The motion passed unanimously. Commissioners were impressed by the meticulous documentation that accompanied the application.

3. New Business. There was no new business.

4. Old Business.

A. *Discussion of certain buildings on Chaplin Street.*

i. Parsonage, 47 Chaplin Street.

a. Satellite Dish. Returning to the issue of the satellite dish installed on the roof of 47 Chaplin Street, commissioners diverged in their opinions on the visibility of the dish. In the course of a discussion of whether or not to address the issue of the dish's installation without consulting the HDC, Cox suggested that officially recording the Commission's displeasure in the minutes would be an adequate response. Smith **moved**, with a **second** by LeShay, that the satellite dish at 47 Chaplin Street is not sufficiently visible to warrant action by the HDC. The motion passed with four in favor and one abstention. Commissioners agreed that there should be a reminder in the annual letter to residents that the HDC should be consulted before the installation of exterior features such as satellite dishes.

b. Ramp. Commissioners concurred that the ramp at 47 Chaplin Street requires an application for a CA if it is not removed and discussed issues of a letter's timing and wording. Church **moved** and Smith **seconded** that the HDC send a letter to Roger Bolduk regarding the ramp at 47 Chaplin Street. The motion was approved unanimously. It was agreed that Givens send a letter to Bolduk upon her return to Chaplin in early August.

ii. Old Post Office, 142 Chaplin Street, and Library, 130 Chaplin Street.

The Commission revisited the issue of a letter to the first selectman concerning the town-owned buildings at the north end of the Street. There was a consensus for leaving the issue of the library, as well as the utility structures at the old post office, for face-to-face discussions. With Givens' departure for the summer, the Commission asked Church and Lynch to send a letter focusing on the signage at the old post office.

B. *Discussion of recruitment of new HDC members.* Commissioners discussed several potential new members to replace current members who expect to resign when their terms expire in September. Givens will confirm their interest in serving before passing the recommendations to the selectmen at the end of the summer.

5. Correspondence. There was no correspondence.

Lynch made a **motion** to adjourn, **seconded** by Church. Givens closed the meeting at 9:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Catherine Lynch
Secretary

The next scheduled meeting will be held on September 10th, 2013, and these minutes are subject to approval at that time.