

Town of Durham
Historic District Commission
Meeting Minutes
Thursday, April 7, 2005

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 8:05 PM by Chairman Alan Reed at Durham Town Hall.

Roll Call: Members present: Trish Dynia, Norman Jason, Duncan Milne and Alan Reed. Alternates present: Linda Bertelsen and Clay Howe and Gordon Wolfgang. Members absent: George Zeeb

Others Present: Architect Tom Arcari and Mary Jane Parsons (Town Hall Renovation Committee).

Seating of Alternates: All alternates were seated.

New Business: Members of the Town Hall Renovation Committee wish to discuss windows and siding materials to be used on the Town Hall: Mr. Arcari presented a revised map of the Town Hall exterior with the following changes: 1. **Elevator Shaft.** In order to accommodate elevator clearance and electrical storage, the exterior elevation has been modified with a shed style roof in order to obtain more height clearance. The other option was to raise the entire roofline, which would cause the eave line to be taller than the roof. 2. **Rear Window.** The architect has lowered the roof pitch to match the eave and pick up the trim line. This creates space for a rear window in the third floor meeting room. 3. **All Windows.** The Committee would like to use insulated, divided light, aluminum clad windows, with the exterior trimmed out in aluminum. Mary Jane Parsons explained that since it is difficult to get the town to fund preservation of municipal properties, the Committee opted for windows that would require little maintenance. It was also noted that the windows would be highly energy efficient and would look exactly like the present windows.

Duncan Milne expressed concerns regarding changes made to the building approximately 80 years ago. Specifically, the building's pillars were removed and the front portico was plastered with 18" of fill. Mr. Milne felt that in the future every effort should be made to return buildings to their original architectural integrity whenever possible. In this case, the Commission gave tentative approval of the plans at the February meeting and so the opportunity no longer exists to make this particular change.

Architect Tom Arcari added that dramatically changing the front would not be feasible due to the elevator location. He also felt that Town Hall's look had become part of the local culture. Mary Jane Parsons added that the Committee had looked at making the above restoration, but decided that it would eliminate too much floor space.

The Town Hall Renovation Committee will return within the next two months with a formal application on the above changes to the plan.

Old Business: None

Approval of Minutes: *A motion was made by Duncan Milne, seconded by Norman Jason, to accept the March 3, 2005 minutes as distributed. The motion passed unanimously with Trish Dynia abstaining.*

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 9:10 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Dynia
Clerk

Cc: Town Clerk