

TOWN OF DURHAM
Historic District Commission
Monday, April 6, 2009, 8:00 PM
Durham Public Library Meeting Room
7 Maple Avenue, Durham, CT 06422
Regular Meeting Minutes

Call to order, roll call, seating of alternates: The meeting was called to order at 8:05 PM by Chairman Duncan Milne at the Durham Public Library.

Roll Call: Members Present: Duncan Milne. Alternates Present: Linda Bertelsen, Clay Howe and Gordon Wolfgang. Staff Present: Trish Dynia.

Seating of Alternates: Linda Bertelsen, Clay Howe and Gordon Wolfgang were seated.

Approval of Agenda: *A motion was made by Linda Bertelsen, seconded by Gordon Wolfgang, to approve the agenda as written. The motion passed unanimously.*

Public Comment for Items Not on Agenda: None

PUBLIC HEARING – 8:10 PM

APCOA #348, Kirk Hagert, 243 Main Street, Requests Relocation and Addition of Cedar Fencing: The applicant was unable to attend but had participated in a pre-application conference with the Chairman and submitted detailed information on the project in his APCOA.

The activity proposed by the property owner in his written application was as follows:

“Remove 4’ foot cedar fence along Main Street, using all shrubbery as natural barrier between stone parking lot and sidewalk. Remove portion of 6’ cedar fence separating Milne from Hagert property to back corner of Milne home, using boxwoods as natural barrier. Use 4’ cedar fence, erected on boundary of Hagert/Astarita home, under pine trees already forming natural boundary. Erect 6’ cedar fence between existing fence parallel to Main Street to corner formed at rear corner of Milne home. This would be a matching convex style, and would also replace old concave cedar fence from back of Milne home along boundary to pine trees at Astarita line (corner).”

Chairman Milne explained that the thrust of what Mr. Hagert wishes to do is to contain the family dog and shield from street view various items in the yard. He plans to maintain and repair the fence line separating his property from the Milne property, take down the four foot length of fence that runs parallel to Main Street and replace it with shrubbery. The fencing and proposed shrubbery would shield the property from Main Street except for a small portion. He also wishes to place a fence along the back, eastern border of the property to contain the dog.

Members expressed concerns regarding the commission’s ability to regulate this activity in the future because the commission has no jurisdiction over plantings. Therefore, down the road, if

this or a future owner decides to remove the proposed shrubbery, the Commission could not object and the buffer would be gone.

Chairman Milne added that years ago the commission bowed to the need for additional, business parking there but that the now existing fence shields the Main Street view of same.

A motion was made by Linda Bertelsen, seconded by Gordon Wolfgang, to close the public hearing at 8:25 PM. The motion passed unanimously.

A motion as made by Gordon Wolfgang, seconded by Linda Bertelsen, to approve the application as submitted with the following amendment: Repair or replace the 4' cedar fence along Main Street to screen the parking lot. The motion passed unanimously.

Review and Acceptance of Previous Minutes: Chairman Milne distributed copies of a letter received from Town Clerk Kim Garvis regarding submission of minutes, which states in part:

“Once it is determined that lack of quorum exists, the board can choose to end the meeting and immediately disband. If this does not happen, and board members continue discussing business, then a meeting is taking place and minutes should be filed with the Town Clerk.”

Thus, the minutes of the February 2, 2009 meeting, previously submitted by the secretary and rejected as unnecessary by the commission, must be reviewed and approved.

A motion was made by Gordon Wolfgang, seconded by Duncan Milne, to approve the January 5, 2009 minutes, February 2, 2009 minutes, and March 16, 2009 minutes, with the following changes to the February minutes: 1. Under Roll Call, Sue Woodson was present, Linda Bertelsen was not, 2. Third paragraph, line 1, Chairman Milne distributed copies of a draft letter to town residents and officials, not to homeowners in the Historic District. The motion passed unanimously.

Payment of Bills: *A motion as made by Gordon Wolfgang, seconded by Sue Bertelsen, to pay the following bill: Trish Dynia, Secretarial Services 1/5/09 to 4/5/09, 12 hours, \$180.00. The motion passed unanimously.*

Old Business: After a brief discussion, it was determined that Chairman Milne would follow up with Diana McCain on the letter approved for submission re: Eames APCOA.

New Business: Gordon Wolfgang noted that the Commission’s application contains old contact information and needs to be updated. Trish Dynia will submit the appropriate changes.

Adjournment: Chairman Milne adjourned the meeting at 8:50 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Dynia

Recording Secretary

cc: Town Clerk, Commission Members