

# **HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION TOWN OF EAST HARTFORD**

## ***REGULAR MEETING AND PUBLIC HEARING:***

***May 12, 2020***

The Public Hearing of the Historic District Commission of East Hartford, Connecticut was called to order at 7:03 p.m. via teleconference. On a roll call by Mr. Simpson:

**PRESENT:** Chairman David Holmes, Steven Strange, Gary LeBeau, Alternate David Case and Alternate Jeffrey Cummings

**ABSENT:**, Vice Chair Travis Simpson, Alternate Henry Pawlowski,

Alternate David Case was appointed a voting member by Chairman Holmes. It was determined that a quorum was present.

**ALSO PRESENT:** Liaison Paul O'Sullivan, Chris George for applicant Hurie, Kim & Rick Beaver

Mr. O'Sullivan read the notice of Public Hearing. Mr. George briefly described the new doors proposed for installation. Several Commission members expressed that the new doors were an improvement over the existing.

**ADJOURNMENT OF PUBLIC HEARING:** Mr. Case moved to adjourn the public hearing, seconded by Mr. Strange. Vote to adjourn was unanimous and uncontested.

### **REGULAR MEETING**

The regular meeting of the Historic District Commission was called to order by Chairman Holmes at 7:11 p.m.

**ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES:** MOTION by Mr. LeBeau to accept the April 14, 2020 Regular Meeting Minutes; seconded by Mr. Case. Vote was unanimous and uncontested.

**COMMUNICATIONS:** None

**OPPORTUNITY FOR CITIZENS/RESIDENTS TO SPEAK:** None

### **OLD BUSINESS:**

- A. ACTION ON APPLICATION FOR CERTIFICATE OF APPROPRIATENESS – 245 NAUBUC AVENUE (OWNER: Hurie) #97 – INSTALLATION OF NEW DOORS Mr. Case made a MOTION to accept the application as complete, seconded by Mr. LeBeau. Vote was unanimous and uncontested.

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

- A. ACCEPT AS COMPLETE – 193 NAUBUC AVENUE (Owner: Beaver) – Install chain link fence around in-ground pool. Chairman Holmes referred to the District's design guidelines, which state that concrete and chain link are generally inappropriate for Historic District. Ms. Beaver explained rationale for using chain link and noted the presence of other chain link fences in the neighborhood. Discussion continued on code

requirements for the height of the fence (4 ft.) and location of the pool on the property. Mr. LeBeau noted that the fence as proposed does not align with the guidelines, and raised the possibility of using plantings to hide the fence from sight. Mr. Case supported the use of plantings. Mr. Cummings expressed his preference for a wooden fence. Discussion continued on greenery and possibility of using a wooden or vinyl fence to front the portion that faces the street. Commissioners expressed concern that greenery was not a permanent solution, taking time to grow and the possibility of the plants dying. Ms. Beaver expressed concern of the interior look of the fence if it is fronted by a wooden and vinyl fence. Mr. LeBeau expressed support for the greenery approach and Mr. Case agreed. Mr. Strange raised the possibility of a green chain link instead of black, and said he has no problem with the chain link and greenery approach. Mr. Cummings reiterated his support for a wood fence, saying there was no guarantee that the greenery would be adequate. Ms. Beaver expressed a strong opposition to a wood fence, largely due to durability and maintenance issues. Chairman Holmes stated his belief that substitution of a vinyl fence would not add significantly to the cost of the project, while Ms. Beaver stated there are budget limitations, and reiterated her opposition to wood. She said she would be willing to look at the cost of vinyl, but expressed concern that the Commission may not support that option at the next meeting. Chairman Holmes suggested that the applicants take into consideration the comments made tonight and come back to the meeting in June with other options. Ms. Beaver expressed concern that the process could drag into July and beyond. Discussion continued concerning other chain link fences in the neighborhood. In polling the commissioners, Mr. LeBeau expressed that he would reluctantly support the chain link fence. Mr. Strange expressed support for a vinyl fronting. Mr. Case expressed approval of the chain link. Mr. Cummings restated his opposition to anything other than wood. Chairman Holmes expressed support for a wood or vinyl fronting and his concern about the permanence of greenery. It was decided that the public hearing and vote would be postponed until the June meeting, and Mr. Mrs. Beaver would investigate options based on the discussion tonight.

Mr. Case made a MOTION to table to vote to accept as complete. Mr. Strange seconded. Vote was unanimous and uncontested.

Mr. LeBeau made a MOTION to postpone the Public Hearing, seconded by Mr. Strange. Vote was unanimous and uncontested.

- B. HOCKANUM SCHOOL/LIBRARY – Chairman Holmes informed the members that he had spoken to Town Building Official Greg Grew regarding the Hockanum Library. Mr. Strange's stated the interest of the Historical Society of East Hartford in preserving and reusing the building.

PAYMENTS:

1. Ms. Enman was not in attendance, thus no motion was made to pay the clerk.

ADJOURNMENT: MOTION by Mr. Case to adjourn the meeting at 8:07 p.m.; seconded by Mr. LeBeau. Vote in the affirmative was unanimous and uncontested.

Respectfully Submitted,



Paul O'Sullivan, Commission Liaison