

TOWN OF WASHINGTON
WASHINGTON HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION
Calhoun-Ives, Sunny Ridge and Washington Green Historic Districts

Minutes – October 26, 2021

Members Present: Ms. Averill, Mr. Hollinger, Ms. Woodroffe, Ms. Mills, Ms. Boyer
Alternates Present: Mr. Rimsky
Alternates Absent: Mr. Fairbairn, Mr. Ferreira
Others: Ms. Gorra, Ms. Demiraj, Mr. Day
Clerk: Mr. Buell

The Chair called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. and seated Mr. Hollinger, Ms. Averill, Ms. Woodroffe, Ms. Mills, and Mr. Rimsky (for Ms. Boyer.)

Consideration of Minutes for the September 20, 2021 Meeting

Mr. Hollinger asked if any members of the Commission had any corrections or additions for the September 20, 2021 meeting minutes. With no comments or corrections, a motion was passed to accept these minutes.

Motion: To accept the minutes as written for the September 20, 2021 meeting by Ms. Woodroffe, seconded by Ms. Averill. Passed 5-0.

75 Green Hill Road Garage Application

Mr. Hollinger stated that the next item on the agenda was the proposed garage for 75 Green Hill road, and indicated that Mr. Buell, the clerk for the Historic District Commission, had shared a rendering of this proposed structure with the Commission for review. He went on to state that though this was not a public hearing, he had questions to ask of Ms. Demiraj regarding the project.

Mr. Hollinger asked Ms. Demiraj why she had only used clapboard siding for one side of the house opposed to cedar shake siding on all sides of the structure. Mr. Demiraj indicated that she had attempted to match the existing siding on the house and that she was happy to alter the plans to use one type of siding on all sides of the structure. After a brief conversation regarding siding for this structure, Ms. Demiraj agreed to use cedar shake shingles on all four sides of the garage.

Mr. Hollinger asked Ms. Demiraj why she had chosen to use one dormer for the proposed garage instead of two. Ms. Demiraj requested clarification on the question, and following an explanation of this question, she stated that she had chosen a single dormer for the project because she had preferred the way it looked to have one dormer in the center of the two garage doors opposed to two above these doors. Mr. Rimsky suggested that this may have been chosen by the architect because it offered better lighting to the interior of the garage, and Ms. Demiraj agreed that this

was one of the reasons that a single dormer had been proposed. Following this, Ms. Demiraj stated that she had spoken to a mason who had indicated that she would have no difficulty obtaining rocks for the foundation of this structure which would closely resemble those on the house. Mr. Hollinger proposed wording for a motion to be passed, and Ms. Woodroffe asked if the cedar shake shingles would be weatherized, or if this was an aspect of the project which would be outside of the Commission's purview. Mr. Hollinger stated that the Commission did not control coloring of this siding but that they could influence the type of siding which would be chosen for the project. Following this clarification, a motion was passed to approve the proposed garage.

Motion: To approve the garage with the stipulation that all of the walls will be covered in cedar shake and that the exposed stone work would be round field stone replicating the same kind of stone that is found on the main house by Ms. Averill, seconded by Ms. Mills. Passed 5-0.

Informal Presentation from the Frederick Gunn School, Peter Becker

Mr. Hollinger asked Mr. Day to introduce himself to the Commission and to provide the Commission with his presentation. Mr. Day stated that he was a senior member of team at the Frederick Gunn school, and that the school was not requesting any approval from the Historic District Commission at this meeting. He went on to explain that he would like input from the Commission regarding two different conversations that the school was having within the town. He listed several groups and organizations that the school wished to begin this open dialog with, and indicated that in essence, the school's goal with these conversations was to promote the amazing history of the Green. Mr. Day described the proposal in detail which included the introduction of QR codes to the Green in some way which would enable visitors to Washington to go on a virtual tour of the Green's history. Mr. Day detailed several of the significant historical events which had taken place in Washington and expressed the school's desire to share this information with the public.

Mr. Day stated that as the second part of this conversation, he would like to discuss the possibility of there being signage on Route 47. Mr. Hollinger stated that the school would need approval from the state, and the Town of Washington's Zoning Commission for signage, which would be potential hurdles for the project. Following this, Mr. Hollinger asked for clarification on what type of signs would be placed around the Green. Mr. Day indicated that the School did not have any concrete plans regarding this proposed signage, and stated that in addition to considering signage, they had also begun to explore the possibility of the creation of a pamphlet which would provide visitors with QR codes.

Mr. Rimsky requested clarification of the QR codes, and asked if there would be information needed in addition to these codes, or if the codes could be simply placed on existing signage in a minimally intrusive manner. Mr. Day indicated that it was possible to just have these QR codes put around the Green. Following Mr. Day's response, Mr. Rimsky asked where visitors would obtain the pamphlets that Mr. Day had proposed, and Mr. Day explained that there would be multiple places where they would be available, and mentioned the PO Café as a possibility. Mr. Rimsky then asked about WIFI coverage in this area for visitors to use to access information

from these QR codes, and Mr. Day indicated that this could potentially be facilitated through the PO Café.

Mr. Hollinger stated that his biggest concern would be the implementation of signs in this area, and Ms. Woodrooffe expressed a similar concern. Mr. Day stated that he wished to return to the Commission with visual representations for this project.

The Commission noted that in a handout that had been provided to them regarding this proposal, there was mention of similar historic tours. Mr. Day was asked if these other historic tours employed the use of QR codes, and Mr. Day confessed that he did not know if they did. Mr. Rimsky suggested the use of VR technology for this project and Mr. Day thanked the Commission for their input.

Delay of Demolition

Mr. Hollinger stated to the Commission that Attorney Olson had made comments regarding the proposed Delay of Demolition, and asked the Commission if they would like to discuss these comments at the 10-26-2021 meeting, or if they would prefer to hold a special meeting to discuss the proposed changes.

Ms. Woodrooffe indicated that the changed proposed by Attorney Olson were minor and that they would be very easy to implement into a new draft of this proposed ordinance. Mr. Hollinger asked if the Commission was concerned by the legality of this proposed ordinance, which Attorney Olson questioned in her comments. Mr. Rimsky explained that nothing proposed in this ordinance was unique to the Town of Washington, and that the procedure of this proposed ordinance had been derived from other towns currently using Delay of Demolition Ordinances. The Commission asked that Ms. Woodrooffe and Mr. Rimsky revise the document so that it may be sent to the Board of Selectmen. The Commission then held a conversation regarding the procedure of having this ordinance proposed to the Board of Selectmen, and discussed minor changes that Mr. Hollinger felt should be made to the proposed ordinance.

New/Other Business

Mr. Hollinger stated that he would like to add new business to the agenda, and asked if the Commission would be willing to pass a motion to add a new item to the agenda. A motion was passed to add new business to the agenda.

Motion: To accept new business to the meeting agenda by Mr. Rimsky, seconded by Ms. Averill. Passed 5-0.

Following this motion, Mr. Hollinger stated that Mr. Buell had forwarded him a proposal from the Frederick Gunn School which detailed plans to demolish the existing science building and build a new science building in its place. Mr. Hollinger stated that the applicant had indicated that this structure would not be visible from the road, and that because of this they had hoped to have approval for the project without obtaining a Certificate of Appropriateness. Mr. Hollinger stated that given the size of the project, the Commission will need to conduct a site visit to determine whether or not this project will require a Certificate of Appropriateness, and that Mr. Buell had been in contact with the applicant to set up this site visit. A short discussion ensued

amongst the Commission regarding the location of the proposed project, which roads it may be visible from, and the procedure which would be followed by the Commission regarding potential approval of this project.

Adjournment

Motion: To adjourn the meeting at 7:56 P.M. by Ms. Woodroffe, seconded by Ms. Averill. Passed 5-0.

Respectfully Submitted,



Dennis Buell

Town of Washington

Historic District Commission Clerk

10-29-2021