**TOWN OF WASHINGTON**

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**Bryan Memorial Town Hall**

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**860-868-1423**

**WASHINGTON HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION**

**Calhoun-Ives, Sunny Ridge and Washington Green Historic Districts**

**Public Hearings - Regular Meeting**

**Upper Level Meeting Room**

Members Jane Boyer, George Krimsky, Alison Gilchrist, Tom Hollinger and alternates Susan Averill, Sarah Woodroofe and Louise Van Tartwijk were present.

Mrs. Boyer opened the public hearing at 7:32 PM and seated alternate Sally Woodroofe for Phyllis Mills and Susan Averill for

Tom Hollinger. Mr. Hollinger recused himself for the public hearing.

Public Hearing

Ms. Boyer opened the Public Hearing at 7:30 PM.

St. John’s Episcopal Church Rectory/ remove shutters without replacement, install copper flashing and wood rot repair.

Ms. Boyer welcomed Mr. Edward Weik, representative for St. John’s Episcopal Church. Mr. Krimsky asked Mr. Weik in what capacity was he representing the church. Mr. Weik provided his company’s name and location and explained that he won the bid for the renovations. Ms. Boyer asked Mr. Weik for a summary of the work that will be take place if the Certificate of Appropriateness is approved. He explained that approx. 90% of the work that will take place will be replacement in kind. The shutter removal was the questionable piece because the church was not planning to replace them, thus the application for the Certificate of Appropriateness. The clerk distributed the pictures that were included with the application.

Ms. Boyer asked if there were any questions or comments. Ms. Woodroofe asked what the reason was for not replacing the shutters. Mr. Weik explained they were in bad condition, were mismatched, some were nailed to the building and some were not. Some had knobs on them, some did not. If the church wanted to put the shutters back on, the wood is so weak and rotted that they might just crumble. Ms. Van Tartwijk stated that the shutters were a very integral part of the building and that one of the missions of the HDC was to preserve the historic integrity of the town’s homes. Ms. Gilchrist commented that the Historic District Commission hasn’t required owners to keep existing shutters on the building due the high maintenance costs and because shutters are no longer needed to protect the windows as in centuries past. Mr. Krimsky stated that shutters are considered mostly decorative now. Ms. Tartwijk commented that with homeowners and contractors trying to cut costs, exterior renovations in the district are sometimes completed without replacing “in kind”. Ms. Van Tartwijk told the commission that there have been times while driving through town, she’ll notice that renovations were completed on homes without protecting and preserving historic elements. Examples were roofs that were originally slate and then repaired using asphalt or seeing new stone wall construction when the purpose of the wall was no longer to contain livestock as in previous centuries but to enhance a property’s appearance or to use the wall as screening. Mr. Krimsky suggested that the commission should research the history of the rectory, try to find plans and photographs in order for the commission to make an educated decision. Ms. Van Tartwijk will do further research on the rectory, will contact members of historic districts in the area that have gone through this and contact several acquaintances on the Roxbury Historic District.

Regular Meeting

Ms. Boyer called the meeting to order at 8:00 PM. Tom Hollinger returns and is now seated for the Regular Meeting.

Consideration of the Minutes

8/18/14

MOTION: To accept the August 18, 2014 minutes as written. By. Ms. Gilchrist, seconded by Ms. Woodroofe and passed 5 to 0.

Pending Business

Discussion – Washington Historic District meeting procedures, research relating to the HDC Rules and Regulations revisions, setting a date for a committee meeting on this subject.

Ms. Boyer started the discussion by commenting that the commission is very fortunate to have alternates that are knowledgeable, informed and have long term history in the town. Ms. Boyer posted the question - Why are the alternates unable to participate the discussions? Mr. Krimsky used this appropriate time in the meeting to distribute a binder he compiled with a condensed version of the *Handbook for CT Historic District Commissions (published in 2010 by the Connecticut Trust for Historic Preservation*).

Mr. Krimsky previously read through the complete handbook and extracted sections that were most pertinent to the Washington Commission. He highlighted noteworthy information, areas in the handbook that answered questions that arose during HDC meetings. The commission appreciated Mr. Krimsky’s efforts and members expressed their gratitude.

The discussion turned to choosing a date for the commission to hold a Special Meeting in order to start working toward their goal of revising Rules and Regulations. Rather than confirming a date, it was decided to wait until committee members felt that they had complete and accurate information to contribute to the meeting. The question of whether or not this should be open to the public was discussed.

George Krimsky offered to contact Gregory Farmer, a Circuit Rider with the Connecticut Trust for Historic Preservation, for assistance regarding the following:

* Questions on the specifics of Special Meetings.
* Communications amongst commission members.
* Specific questions relating to commission alternates.

Adjournment

MOTION: To adjourn the meeting. By Mr. Krimsky., seconded by Ms. Woodroofe.

Ms. Boyer adjourned the meeting at 9:00 PM.

Filed Subject to Approval

Respectfully Submitted,

Janice Roberti

Historic District Clerk