

April 21, 2008

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mr. Chute, Mr. Smith, Mr. Talbot

MEMBERS ABSENT: Ms. Gilchrist

ALTERNATES PRESENT: Mrs. Boyer, Mrs. Rives

ALTERNATES ABSENT: Mrs. Mills

STAFF PRESENT: Mrs. Shade

OTHERS PRESENT: Ms. Peters, Mr. DiBenedetto, Mr. Krivicky, Mrs. Crumrine

PUBLIC HEARINGS

Laffont /128 Calhoun Street /Tennis court

Mr. Smith opened the Public Hearing at 7:35PM to consider the application for a Certificate of Appropriateness submitted by Dominique and Frederic Laffont, 128 Calhoun Street, to install a clay tennis court. He read the legal notice which appeared in **Voices** on 4/13/08. Mr. Smith seated the members, Alternate Rives and seated Alternate Boyer for Ms. Gilchrist. Ms. Andrea Peters from Tittmann Design & Consulting represented the applicants.

The members looked at the site plan, tennis court plans and photos which were submitted with the application. Ms. Peters said she did not think the tennis court would be visible from the road. Mr. Talbot asked if any lighting was planned for the tennis court. No.

Mrs. Boyer, Mr. Chute, Mrs. Rives and Mr. Smith each said they had been to the site, and from the road could not see the stakes which had been placed at each corner of the proposed court.

Mr. Talbot said he thought the tennis court would be masked by the house that's already there, but he would like to go have a look for himself and recommended they continue the Public Hearing.

Mrs. Boyer said she would also like to wait until Mr. Talbot has an opportunity to check out the tennis court. All agreed. Mr. Talbot further noted that if the commission does approve the tennis court, he would like to stipulate in the C of A that the court have no lighting.

Mr. Smith asked if there were any additional questions or comments. There were none. There was no one else present to speak for or against this application.

MOTION: To continue the Public Hearing to consider the application for a Certificate of Appropriateness submitted 4/7/08 by Dominique and Frederic Laffont, 128 Calhoun Street, to install a clay tennis court surrounded by a fence constructed of 10ft tall cedar posts and black vinyl chain link fencing. By Mr. Talbot, seconded by Mrs. Rives and passed 5-0.

Mr. Smith closed the Public Hearing at 7:45PM.

DiBenedetto /214 Calhoun Street /Revise barn location

Mr. Smith opened the Public Hearing at 7:46PM to consider the application for a Certificate of

Appropriateness submitted by Anthony and Eileen DiBenedetto, 214 Calhoun Street, to revise the location of the utility barn. He read the legal notice which appeared in **Voices** on 4/13/08. Mr. Smith seated the members, Alternate Rives and seated Alternate Boyer for Ms. Gilchrist. Mr. DiBenedetto was present.

Mr. DiBenedetto set up a large site plan for the discussion and submitted an identical smaller one for the record (marked rec'd 4/21/08). He stated that due to wetlands on the property he would like to move the barn from the location that was previously approved by the Commission on 11/13/07.

Mr. Talbot: Does the barn have a different shape?

Mr. DiBenedetto: No, it is just reoriented - the barn is the same.

Mr. Talbot: So, it is a mirror image?

Mr. DiBenedetto: Yes.

Mr. Talbot: So we are just talking about siting - not the barn itself?

Mr. DiBenedetto: Yes.

The members asked Mr. DiBenedetto if he intended to use the same access road off Calhoun Street as discussed in the previous application. He replied that the access road is the same and drew a line on the site plan showing the access road to the new location. He said this change in location for the utility barn eliminates any Inland-Wetlands problems for them.

Mr. Smith asked if there were any additional questions or comments. There were none. There was no one else present to speak for or against this application.

MOTION: To close the Public Hearing to consider the application for a Certificate of Appropriateness submitted 4/7/08 by Anthony and Eileen DiBenedetto, 214 Calhoun Street, to revise the location of the utility barn, previously approved on 11/13/07. By Mrs. Boyer, seconded by Mr. Chute and passed 5-0.

Mr. Smith closed the Public Hearing at 8:00PM.

Mostajo - Schein /2 Wykeham Road /Stone wall

Mr. Smith opened the Public Hearing at 8:03PM to consider the application for a Certificate of Appropriateness submitted by Maria Mostajo and Mark Schein, 2 Wykeham Road, to build a stone wall. He read the legal notice which appeared in voices on 4/13/08. Mr. Smith seated the members, Alternate Rives and Alternate Boyer for Ms. Gilchrist. Mr. Allen Krivicky, their Contractor, represented the applicants.

The members discussed the site plan submitted with the application and a photo brought by Mr. Krivicky (marked rec'd 4/21/08). He apologized for the photo not being very clear due to his broken printer. Mr. Krivicky stated the stone wall will be made from stone on the property. It will not be a 'perfect' wall, and will be less than three feet tall. It is to be a continuation of an existing stone wall. Mr. Smith said, for the record, the Commission needs a clear description of what the wall will look like.

Mrs. Rives said she drove by the property and could not see the stakes in the ground. Mr. Smith said he could not see them either.

Mr. Talbot asked the status of the spa. Mr. Krivicky said they are just removing rock now. The spa will not be visible from a public way. Mr. Talbot asked the other members if they remember approving a split rail fence for 2 Wykeham Road. Mr. Krivicky noted that fence is on a neighbor's property.

Mr. Smith asked if there were any additional questions or comments. He stated that a stipulation should be made in the approval that a final photo is needed for the file. There was no one else present to speak for or against this application.

MOTION: To close the Public Hearing to consider the application for a Certificate of Appropriateness submitted 4/8/08 by Maria Mostajo and Mark Schein, 2 Wykeham Road, to build a stone wall. By Mrs. Boyer, seconded by Mrs. Rives and passed 5-0.

Mr. Smith closed the Public Hearing at 8:11PM.

Washington Club /92 Green Hill Road /Sign on building

Mr. Smith opened the Public Hearing at 8:12PM to consider the application for a Certificate of Appropriateness submitted by the Washington Club, 92 Green Hill Road, to install the original sign back on the building. He read the legal notice which appeared in **Voices** on 4/13/08. Mr. Smith seated the members, Alternate Rives and seated Alternate Boyer for Ms. Gilchrist. No one was present for the Washington Club.

Mr. Smith read an e-mail from Ann M. Burton, member and letters from Peter Arturi, Club President, George M. Auchincloss, member and Susan Payne, member. All were in favor of this application. These letters are in the applicant file and a copy filed with these minutes.

Mrs. Rives said she would like to know when the sign was on the building, how long it was there and why it was taken down. She said it does not fit. Mrs. Boyer noted it was not there in the fifties. Mr. Talbot said it could have been mounted temporarily. He thinks it is important to find out the provenance of the sign. He added billboards could be put on the panels at either side of the doors.

Mrs. Boyer said she has a problem because the sign is so big. The Gunnery signs are not so large. She said she likes Mr. Talbot's thought regarding the provenance of this sign. Mr. Chute agreed - we don't like the sign, but we should know if it has historical significance. Mrs. Rives said she does not think the sign is appropriate.

Mr. Smith asked if there were any additional questions or comments. There were none. No one else was present to speak for or against this application.

MOTION: To close the Public Hearing to consider the application for a Certificate of Appropriateness submitted 3/25/08 by The Washington Club, 92 Green Hill Road to install the original wooden sign back on the building. By Mr. Talbot, seconded by Mr. Chute and passed 5-0.

Mr. Smith closed the Public Hearing at 8:20PM.

REGULAR MEETING

Mr. Smith called the meeting to order at 8:23PM and seated the members, Alternate Rives and Alternate Boyer for Ms. Gilchrist.

Laffont /128 Calhoun Street /Tennis court

MOTION: To continue the Public Hearing to consider the application for a Certificate of Appropriateness submitted 4/7/08 by Dominique and Frederic Laffont, 128 Calhoun Street, to install a clay tennis court surrounded by a fence constructed of 10ft tall cedar posts and black vinyl chain link fencing. By Mr. Talbot, seconded by Mrs. Rives and passed 5-0.

DiBenedetto /214 Calhoun Street /Revise barn location

The members briefly discussed lighting. Mr. DiBenedetto said there will be no change in lighting. The doorway lights will point light downward and only be on when necessary. Due to the new location of the utility barn, Mr. Talbot recommended a stipulation be made in the C of A stating that any change in lighting must be approved by the commission.

MOTION: To approve the application for a Certificate of Appropriateness submitted 4/7/08 by Anthony and Eileen DiBenedetto, 214 Calhoun Street, to revise the location of the utility barn, previously approved on 11/13/07, with the stipulation that any changes in lighting must be applied for due to the revised location. This work is to be completed by April 21, 2009; or else this approval shall be void. By Mrs. Rives, seconded by Mr. Chute and passed 5-0.

Mostajo - Schein /2 Wykeham Road /Stone wall

MOTION: To approve the application for a Certificate of Appropriateness submitted 4/8/08 by Maria Mostajo and Mark Schein, 2 Wykeham Road, to build a stone wall as shown on the site plan submitted with the application and photo received 4/21/08, with the stipulation that a detailed photograph showing the design of the wall be submitted. This work is to be completed by April 21, 2009; or else this approval shall be void. By Mr. Talbot, seconded by Mrs. Rives and passed 5-0.

Washington Club /92 Green Hill Road /Sign on building

Mrs. Crumrine was present to discuss the application with the commission.

Mr. Talbot asked Mrs. Crumrine if she could get more information on the historical provenance of the sign. The general feeling is it appears to be large. Could you find more history on this sign? Who made it, is there some historical significance? The problem is the members feel it is slightly oversized and not entirely appropriate.

Mr. Smith commented that the arc of the letters on the sign gets covered up by the arc of the eave. Mrs. Boyer said she does not ever remember the sign being on the building. She also stated there is a 1908 photo of the Club Hall in the museum and the sign is not on the building.

Mrs. Crumrine stated she wants to work with the commission and asked them what they would like to see there.

As a temporary sign for certain events, Mr. Talbot said this sign would be fine. Mrs. Crumrine replied they need a permanent sign. Mr. Talbot said from his perspective, it is important to know historically how the sign came about. This is a very important building in Washington. Mrs. Crumrine assured him that this is taken very seriously. She suggested they could hire someone to make a sign such as the signs on the Washington Supply with individual letters, and the old sign could be hung inside the building.

Mr. Smith said if he were presented with a history of the old sign he might feel more comfortable. This sign is inconsistent with other buildings on the Green. Another possibility - look at signs on other buildings. Mr. Talbot agreed. Rossiter did a number of buildings with signage in New York, etc. A sign needs to be thoughtfully done to be appropriate with the building.

Mrs. Boyer suggested using the billboards on either side of the doors; one could say "Club Hall", the other could be used for temporary signs such as weddings. Mr. Talbot agreed. He also said individual letters were a possibility, but should be done by a signage expert who could show how letters would be placed on the building. Mrs. Crumrine said she would get a group together to meet with a sign expert. Mrs. Boyer suggested the sign should be as small as possible and yet be seen from the road.

The members agreed this discussion should be continued until the next regular meeting.

MOTION: To continue the discussion, until the next regular meeting, on the application for Certificate of Appropriateness for The Washington Club, 92 Green Hill Road, to install the original sign back on the building. By Mrs. Boyer, seconded by Mr. Chute and passed 5-0.

Consideration of the Minutes

MOTION: To approve the 3/17/08 minutes as written. By Mrs. Rives, seconded by Mr. Chute and passed 3-0-2. Mrs. Boyer and Mr. Talbot abstained; not at March meeting.

Other Business

Zoning in Historic Districts: The members discussed Zoning enforcement in the historic districts. Mrs. Boyer stated that any teeth HDC has comes from Zoning. The members would like to have the support of other commissions. Also, cultivate support of residents within the districts and make sure realtors inform their clients that they are buying property within one of the districts. The members emphasized that they would be very interested in attending meetings with the First Selectman and other commissions.

The members welcomed Mr. J. Allen Kerr who had sat in on the Public Hearings and Regular Meeting. Mr. Kerr told the members about his background as an attorney and his experience representing various Historic Commissions in the State. The members thanked him for his interest in joining HDC.

MOTION: To adjourn the meeting. By Mr. Smith.

Mr. Smith adjourned the meeting at 9:45PM.

FILED SUBJECT TO APPROVAL

Respectively Submitted,

Martha T. Shade, Clerk