

# August 15, 2011

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Mrs. Boyer, Mr. Chute, Ms. Gilchrist, Mr. Kerr

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Mr. Smith

**ALTERNATES PRESENT:** Mr. Krimsky, Mrs. Mills

**ALTERNATES ABSENT:** Mr. Hollinger

**STAFF PRESENT:** Mrs. Shade

## **PUBLIC HEARING**

The Gunnery /99 Green Hill Road /Replace roof on the Cottage.

Ms. Gilchrist reconvened the Public Hearing at 7:35PM to consider the application for a Certificate of Appropriateness submitted by The Gunnery, 99 Green Hill Road, to replace the roof on the Cottage. Ms. Gilchrist seated the members and seated Alternate Krimsky for Mr. Smith. Ms. Gilchrist asked if there was anyone present for The Gunnery. There was not.

The members discussed the fact that even though the work has already been done on the Cottage, it would be constructive to have a representative from The Gunnery available to answer some questions. Mr. Chute said he does not see a problem with what The Gunnery has done, but thinks they should acknowledge HDC requests. Mrs. Boyer questioned whether the windows and siding were exact replacements. Ms. Gilchrist said The Gunnery should come to a meeting. It is more official. She will write them a letter. There is time to continue the Public Hearing one more time.

### **MOTION:**

To continue the Public Hearing to consider the application for a Certificate of Appropriateness submitted by The Gunnery, 99 Green Hill Road, to replace the roof on the Cottage.

By Mrs. Boyer, seconded by Mr. Kerr and passed 5-0.

Ms. Gilchrist closed the Public Hearing at 7:45PM.

This Public Hearing was recorded and is available in the Land Use Office, Bryan Memorial Town Hall, Washington Depot, Connecticut.

## **REGULAR MEETING**

Ms. Gilchrist called the meeting to order at 7:47PM. She seated the members and seated Alternate Krimsky for Mr. Smith.

There were several people waiting to have discussions with the Commission, so it was agreed to change the order on the Agenda so they would not have a long wait.

### **MOTION:**

To change the order of business in order to first hear from people who have come for a discussion with the Commission.

By Mr. Krimsky, seconded by Mrs. Boyer and passed 5-0.

A. Sidewalk at First Congregational Church: First Selectman, Mark Lyon, introduced himself and Mr. David Werkhoven, Buildings & Grounds Trustee for the Church. Mr. Lyon told the members that he wanted Mr. Werkhoven to be at this meeting because he was most familiar with the sidewalk project. He said the two of them met with the Highway Department regarding the handicap access, the sidewalk

along the road and the catch basin the Town is going to replace. The Town is going to assist the Church in helping with the sidewalk and improve road drainage in that area. The new sidewalk will match up with the sidewalk coming from the Library where there is a crosswalk. Mrs. Boyer asked if there was any way the sidewalk could be a darker color instead of dead-white. Mr. Lyon said he thought so, but would have to ask. Ms. Gilchrist asked if this choice of location is very critical. Because, she noted, on the rest of the Green the grass comes down to the street and creates a certain look. She asked if it would be possible to put the walkway more inland from the road to maintain the look of grass at the street. Mr. Lyon explained that would create a grade issue due to the sidewalk going up hill and may not comply with ADA rules. Mr. Chute agreed. The sidewalk will have a more gradual rise near the road. Mrs. Boyer commented on how dangerous the area is and asked if the sidewalk location could be moved. Mr. Lyon replied the new sidewalk will line up with the existing sidewalk at the Library and the crosswalk. They discussed the curbs. Mr. Lyon said installing curbs keeps people from parking on the grass. Ms. Gilchrist asked if there is any way of not needing an ADA ramp. Mr. Lyon replied whenever there is a sidewalk and curb, a ramp is required. The curbs are typically 4 inches high. He also noted that all of the curbing on the Green is pretty old and is beginning to crumble and break apart. Mr. Kerr said he thinks there is a tint that can be added to concrete, also texture could be added. The members thought that would be good. Mrs. Boyer asked Mr. Lyon if he could get back to the Commission and let them know if tinting is possible. Mr. Lyon said he would discuss all this with Kevin Smith, the Highway Director, who does a lot of concrete work and will let the members know what he says. Mr. Lyon added, they would like to do the work this fall. Ms. Gilchrist asked if the commissioners had any more questions. There were none. Ms. Gilchrist thanked Mr. Lyon and Mr. Werkhoven for meeting with the Commission.

#### B. 175 Calhoun Street LLC /Discussion:

Atty. Rob Fisher represented the owners, Greg and Brett Heyman. He said his clients did not realize they needed permits. They removed flagstones from around the pool and that area is now grass. The wooden fence around the pool was removed because it had deteriorated and they replaced it with the stone walls, fireplace and gates. Mrs. Mills remarked that the fireplace looks funny from the road. Mr. Kerr wondered if the fireplace is subject to zoning or fire safety regulations. He also said Mr. and Mrs. Heyman will need to complete an application for a Certificate of Appropriateness. Ms. Gilchrist said she is not wild about the gate – it is not appropriate. Atty. Fisher said Mr. Heyman had copied the design of another gate. The members suggested he look at some other gates in the District. Mrs. Boyer asked if Mr. and Mrs. Heyman had ever received anything in the mail from HDC. Atty. Fisher replied they had not. Mrs. Boyer noted the letter sent to new owners is very explicit. Atty. Fisher said he will get an application to fill out.

#### C. 5 Wykeham Road /Library Parking Lot Lighting:

Jean Chapin, Library Director, presented her lighting plan to the Commission. She explained to the members that the existing lights in the parking lot have been hit many times by cars as they pull in to park. Mrs. Chapin described the low, round brown lights, set into the mulch which will light the walk. Also, there will be three solid copper post lights with frosted chimneys. Rod Pleasants noted that these are reproduction gas lights. Ms. Gilchrist commented that the low fixtures sound great for the walk, but she is hesitant about the post lights. She would prefer the source of light be hidden, and provide down-lighting for the walkway. Mrs. Chapin noted that the parking area is not lit all the time; only when the Library is open. Ms. Gilchrist suggested when they come back with their application, they should choose a light in which the bulb is not visible; the simpler the better. Mrs. Boyer agreed. Lights should do their work, but not be so obvious.

#### D. 2 Wykeham Road /Discussion:

The members discussed the fact that some neighbors have complained about the fact that a couple of shutters on the house are coming apart. It was noted that repairs do not fall under the jurisdiction of the Commission. The house is presently for sale.

**MOTION:**

To include for discussion items not posted on Agenda:

a.) Signs.

b.) Higher fee for “after the fact” permits.

By Mrs. Boyer, seconded by Mr. Kerr and passed 5-0.

a.) Signs.

The members discussed the fact that there are presently 3 temporary and 4 permanent signs on the Green. Many signs are left up after the activity is over. Can HDC require people to take signs down after their activity is over? Ms. Gilchrist commented that is not under HDC purview. It was noted that Litchfield has a rule to that effect. Mr. Krinsky said the goal is good to keep the Green from being cluttered. Mrs. Boyer suggested a letter should be sent to the churches, and others on the Green reminding them to remove their signs once an activity is over.

b.) The members briefly discussed whether they should change the fee for applicants who do “after the fact” permits.

**Correspondence**

Ms. Gilchrist read an e-mail dated 8/11/11, from Mr. Markert, a Calhoun-Ives District resident, pertaining to projects going on in that district. The commissioners appreciated his comments. The e-mail is filed with these minutes.

**Consideration of the Minutes**

**MOTION:**

To accept the 7/18/11 minutes as written.

By Mrs. Boyer, seconded by Mr. Kerr and passed 5-0.

**MOTION:** To adjourn. By Mrs. Boyer.

Ms. Gilchrist adjourned the meeting at 9:10PM.

**FILED SUBJECT TO APPROVAL**

Respectfully Submitted,

Martha T. Shade, Clerk