



Suffield Historic District Commission Meeting Minutes
Regular Meeting: February 7; 7:30 P.M.
Town Hall Meeting Room 83 Mountain Rd.

Chairman Douglas Mayne called The Historic District Commission meeting to order at 7:30 pm on Monday Feb 7, 2021.

Voting members: Commissioner(s), Scott MacClintic, John Schwemmer, Bill Moryto, and Beth Tracey. Lisa Sabbatino will serve as an alternate non-voting member for this meeting.

Approval of minutes: Commissioner Moryto called for a motion to approve edited December minutes along with January minutes. Commissioner MacClintic seconded the motion to approve the minutes as submitted. The minutes were approved unanimously.

Public Comments:

Klaire Bielonko addressed the commission expressing her disapproval of removing the historic tobacco barn which is part of the proposed project on 510 No. Main Street – agenda item 5a.

Applications for a Certificate of Appropriateness

- a. 520 No. Main St., Proposed New house/barn demolition

Ray Daddario/ Rayco Development Co. LLC and Bob Sobinsky addressed the commission by reviewing a proposal for a new single family home. Renderings were presented.

Rayco reviewed site plans and included material details that included:

- Simpson front door
- 400 series Woodwright windows throughout
- 8 foot first floor ceilings to keep the roof lower

The commission continued to review the application specifics and materials with the contractor.

Commissioner Moryto commented that the style is modern. The group discussed the style of the gable within a gable in the front of the home.

Commissioner MacClintic commented on the setback distance being a bit far and not in line with the other properties on Main Street.

Commissioner Schwemmer commented that having a one car garage may lend itself to more cars in the driveway. Commissioner Schwemmer also commented on saving and or getting creative in saving the barn versus removing the barn.

Commissioner Moryto stated it would be great to save the barn but the reality is that the structure is in rough shape and it will be a challenge to find a person to undertake the project. A plan to repurpose may be more appropriate.

Commissioner Tracey spoke to the quality of the work that Rayco has already done. Commissioner Tracey was under the impression that the barn would be a part of any new development plans. Commissioner Tracey shared that she would like to see if there is a way to repair and save the barn if possible. A concern regarding the driveway placement was also mentioned.

Commissioner Sabbatino shared that she likes the home plans, and the setback does not bother her either way. She believes that in 2018 the commission agreed that the barn was a treasure. Commissioner Sabbatino also expressed that it seems like the current plan is willing to trade a treasure for an RV spot and believes that this would not be a good trade off.

Commissioner MacClintic shared that he is not sure if there has been any maintenance done to the barn since 2018. Commissioner MacClintic does not like the house setback, yet agrees that Rayco does quality, detailed work. Commissioner MacClintic does not like being put in the position where willful neglect would force the commission to make a choice about the demolition of an historic tobacco shed.

Chairman Mayne spoke to the barn's significance in the historic district but is not sure that preserving the barn will allow for the development of the lot. While the town would possibly lose a barn, it would gain quality new construction.

Commissioner Sabbatino shared an idea to make the barn a functional piece of the property.

Commissioner Schwemmer spoke to the unusual placement of the barn.

Commissioner Schwemmer called for a motion to approve the application as submitted. The commission voted:

Commissioner MacClintic: Opposed

Commissioner Moryto: In Favor

Commissioner Tracey: Opposed

Chairman Mayne: In Favor

Commissioner Schwemmer: In Favor