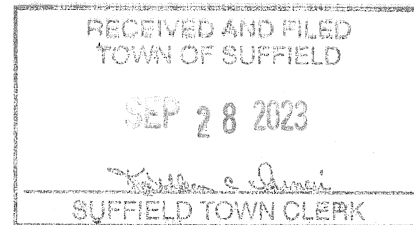


**Suffield Historic District Commission Meeting Minutes**  
**Regular Meeting: September 11, 2023; 7:30 P.M.**  
**Town Hall Lower Level Meeting Room**

**Chairman Mayne** called The Historic District Commission meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. on Monday, September 11, 2023.

**Attendees: Commissioner**

Doug Mayne  
John Schwemmer  
Beth Tracey  
Klaire Bielonko (Alternate)  
Crystal Quandt (Alternate)



**Absent: Commissioner**

Bill Moryto  
Scott MacClintic  
Aysha Moore-Manwaring (Alternate)

**Designation of Voting Members:** Voting rights were designated to alternate members Klaire Bielonko and Crystal Quandt

**Approval of Minutes:** Commissioner Tracey motioned and Commissioner Bielonko seconded to approve the minutes from the August 7, 2023 Regular Meeting as presented. Vote: 5-0 in favor. Motion passed unanimously.

**Public Comment:** None

**Applications for a Certificate of Appropriateness**

a. 82 N. Main Street, Proposed Exterior Sign

Chairman Mayne gave a brief overview of what has happened with this application during its original presentation to the Historic District Commission, the requests that were made by the commission and where it stands at this point in time. The owner addressed the commission, presented electronic images of the restyled sign for the commission to review and confirmed approval by the Village District Design Review Board. The commission asked questions regarding sign location, height, colors, positioning in relation to the building, the materials being used, and how the design compared to other signs in the immediate business area. All questions were answered by the owner and the commission agreed to move forward with the sign as presented.

Commissioner Schwemmer motioned and Commissioner Tracey seconded to approve the application as presented. Vote: 5-0 in favor. Motion passed unanimously.

b. 298 N. Main Street, Proposed Window Replacement

Patrick Keane, owner of 298 N. Main Street, addressed the commission and explained that in 2018 a major renovation was done on this property and at that time he had received a Certificate of Appropriateness for replacement windows, but for budgetary reasons, 20 rough openings were left unfinished with the understanding that they would be replaced at a later date. Mr. Keane would now like to complete 18 of the remaining 20 openings. He walked the commission through a number of electronic images of the home, which illustrated the windows in detail and answered questions accordingly. The commission members reviewed the information and determined, based on the level of detail provided, the project could move forward without issue.

Commissioner Tracey motioned and Commissioner Schwemmer seconded to approve the proposed window replacement as submitted. Vote: 5-0 in favor. Motion passed unanimously.

c. 489 Mapleton Avenue, Proposed Rooftop Solar

The owner of 489 Mapleton Avenue was not in attendance and the commission discussed whether or not to move forward with the agenda item in their absence.

Commissioner Schwemmer motioned and Commissioner Tracey seconded to enter deliberation on the application. Vote: 5-0 in favor. Motion passed unanimously.

Discussion ensued with Commissioner Tracey expressing concerns about solar and the fact that the commission has never had discussions on a solar project. Commissioner Bielonko stated that there has been one application in the past, however, it was not for placement on the front of a home. Legislation was reviewed and the commission considered the wording and "appropriateness." In addition, the commission discussed the location of the solar panels, the impact on the properties within close proximity to the home in question, as well as any homes within a Historic District. Alternative locations were considered and guidelines published on the State of CT website were also taken into consideration.

Commissioner Schwemmer motioned and Commissioner Tracey seconded to reject the application on the basis that the application has solar panels facing the historic street and there are adjacent historic properties on either side of the applicants property, as well as across the street and the modern solar panel features would be incongruous with the character of the immediate historic area. Vote: 5-0 in favor. Motion passed unanimously.

**New Business**

All commissioners agreed that there was no new business to discuss.

Commissioner Schwemmer motioned and Commissioner Tracey seconded to adjourn at 8:14 p.m. Vote: 5-0 in favor. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,  
Kristen O. Lambert  
Recording Secretary