

Suffield Historic District Commission Meeting Minutes
Regular Meeting: June 3, 2024; 7:30 P.M.
Town Hall Upper Level Meeting Room

J. Schwemmer called The Historic District Commission meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. on Monday, June 3, 2024.

Attendees: Commissioner

John Schwemmer
Beth Tracey
Scott MacClintic
Klaire Bielonko (Alternate)

Absent: Commissioner

Doug Mayne
Bill Moryto
Crystal Quandt (Alternate)
Aysha Moore-Manwaring (Alternate)

Designation of Voting Members

J. Schwemmer noted that the designated voting members this evening would be Commissioner Schwemmer, Commissioner Tracey, Commissioner MacClintic and Commissioner Bielonko.

Approval of Minutes

Commissioner Tracey MOTIONED and Commissioner MacClintic seconded to accept the meeting minutes from the May 6, 2024 Regular Meeting as presented. Vote: 3 in favor (Schwemmer, Tracey and MacClintic) and 1 abstain (Bielonko.) Motion passed.

Public Comment

Kathy Bielonko, 981 East Street North – Ms. Bielonko expressed her concerns regarding visible air conditioning units on South Main Street.

Applications for a Certificate of Appropriateness

- a. 99 High Street, Proposed Chimney Reconfiguration and Repair

Homeowners presented documentation which had been requested of them at the May 6, 2024 Historic District Commission Meeting. They outlined their plan of action, including how they planned to take the chimney height down, replace any damaged pieces with existing brick while matching the mortar and capping. The commissioners asked questions, which the homeowner answered accordingly.

Commissioner MacClintic MOTIONED and Commissioner Tracey seconded to accept the application as presented. Vote: 4-0 in favor. Motion passed unanimously.

b. 81 High Street, Proposed Sign

The representative for 81 High Street presented their proposed plan for a sign replacement. It was determined that the Design Review Board did not need to be involved as this a replacement only. The sign will be predominately the same, with the exception of a slight change in the size of the trim and the materials to be utilized. The commissioners asked questions and discussed possible changes with the representative who provided responses to proposed changes.

Commissioner Tracey MOTIONED and Commissioner MacClintic seconded to accept the application as presented. Vote: 4-0 in favor. Motion passed unanimously.

c. 11 High Street, Proposed Sign

The owner of Karenough Crafts presented information on the proposed awning she would like to place on the outside of her business located at 11 High Street. She described the proposed awning in detail, outlined the difficulties she has encountered while trying to promote her business in the Historic District and addressed the commission's questions and concerns accordingly. The awning will obscure the trim currently above the windows, however, after much consideration the commission agreed to move forward with approval.

Commissioner MacClintic MOTIONED and Commissioner Bielonko seconded to accept the application as presented. Vote: 4-0 in favor. Motion passed unanimously.

d. 28 Marbern Drive, Proposed New Infill and Fence

The owners of 28 Marbern Drive walked the commissioners through the application they submitted for their 75 year old home and the changes they would like to make on the property. The commission members reviewed the proposed changes, asked questions about the proposed materials and new layout and expressed some concerns. Some commissioners felt the changes would not necessarily enhance the home, however, based on its location the commission agreed to move forward with approval.

Commissioner MacClintic MOTIONED and Commissioner Tracey seconded to accept the application as presented. Vote: 4-0 in favor. Motion passed unanimously.

e. 1289 Hill Street, Fire Damage Repair and Proposed New Car Port

Kate Farrell, the owner of 1289 Hill Street, provided the commissioners with an extremely detailed presentation of the property including history of the building both prior to and after the fire that destroyed the home. She explained the rationale for all of the renovations to be made to the home as well as the new features to be included. The commissioners provided positive feedback to Ms. Farrell and commended her on her presentation. They asked questions and provided a number of suggestions and comments for consideration. Discussion ensued among

the commissioners and Ms. Farrell regarding her inability to obtain a building permit and whether or not architectural drawings are required in advance of issuance. The commissioners gave Ms. Farrell outlined what will be needed in order to move forward.

Commissioner MacClintic MOTIONED and Commissioner Tracey seconded to accept the concept being proposed by the homeowner as delineated on Page 10 of the application with the following details to be provided when they become available, in order to finalize the approval. Details include the following:

- window details
- window trim details
- front entrance details including sidelights and door
- extended roof line and soffit details
- potential expansion of side porch and carport details

Vote: 4-0 in favor. Motion passed unanimously.

f. 40 Day Avenue, Proposed Fence

The homeowners addressed the commissioners with a plan to take down and replace a chain link fence currently on their property. They provided information on the replacement materials as well as other pertinent details of the project, including the sight line from the street. Discussion ensued as to whether the location of this fence fell within the Historic District Commissions purview based on the distance from the road. Commissioners had differing opinions on the method of measurement, however, they decided to move forward with consideration of the application.

Commissioner MacClintic MOTIONED and Commissioner Tracey seconded to accept the application as presented. 3 in favor (Schwemmer, MacClintic and Tracey) and 1 abstain (Bielonko.) Motion passed.

New Business

- Updates on St. Joseph Church - Building Inspector Response to unauthorized work being conducted has not been received
- 232 South Main Street Stables – Historical Society did not come back to the Historic District Commission within the 3 month timeframe given in February with a plan for demolition. Extensive discussion ensued as to how to proceed and whether it is possible to pull the Certificate of Appropriateness.

Commissioner MacClintic MOTIONED and Commissioner Bielonko seconded to adjourn

at 9:52 p.m. Respectfully submitted,

Kristen O. Lambert
Recording Secretary