TOWN OF EAST HADDAM
Historic District Commission Meeting Minutes
July 16, 2024
Municipal Office Building, Meeting room 1
And Via YouTube Live

In attendance:

Historic District Commission Members:

Will Brady, Chairman
Karl Stofko
Steven Rossi
David Nelson
Jack Lovejoy

Joe Zirlis (phoned in)

Deb Denette (recording secretary for Becky Wonneberger).

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Brady called the Historic District commission to order at 7:34 pm in meeting room 1 of the Municipal Office Complex.

There was action to appoint Jack to take the place of Chris, it did not happen here, but I believe it should have.

PUBLIC HEARING

C-03-24, 2 Norwich Road, the Pink Lotus, Doreen Schaen applicant, Damon Fernandez property owner. M17/L085 Proposed sign for new store.

Chairman Brady reviewed the application and the graphic design submitted. The Commission had no objection to the artwork, however, the application did not identify the location for the proposed new sign. After lengthy discussion the Commission felt it could either table the application or stipulate the location for the sign. The Commission chose to move on to other items on the agenda in hopes that the applicant could be reached to answer the questions of the Commission.

APPLICATION RENEWAL

64 Main Street, application renewal.

Chairman Brady reminded all that this was for a rebuild of a stone wall, where it is jutting out. The property owner had been ill and unable to get to the previously approved work. They are now ready to move forward.

David nelson motioned, Steven Rossi seconded the motion to renew the application for 64 Main Street. It was suggested that the prior application number be added.

PUBIC HEARING (CONTINUED)

Returning to discussion on C-03-24 (2 Norwich Road) for signage at a new business to be called The Pink Lotus Chairman Brady advised that the owner could not be reached. Mr. Nelson opined that the height vs length ration creates too much white space and it will be difficult to read the sign. There was, however, no historic objection to the size or design.
Further review of the application seemed to indicate that there would be three signs, one of wood, one multi color and a vinyl sticker for the window. Again, discussion on the specific location of the proposed signage was questioned. It was also stated that the Commission does not have a clear understanding of what it is being asked to approve. The application seemed to indicate that the new store will open in September allowing for action at the August meeting in time for the opening

Accordingly, Mr. Nelson motioned to table Application C-03-24, 2 Norwich Road, the Pink Lotus, Doreen Schaen applicant, Damon Fernandez property owner. M17/L085 Proposed sign for new store until the August 20, 2024 meeting. Mr. Rossi seconded the motion. The motion laying action of Application C-03-24 on the table carried unanimously via voice vote.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Discussion was held relative to work being done at the Champion House and Society Hall which has not been brought before the Commission. The ZEO should visit the property owner, and advise them of the need for application to the Commission. It was noted that original historic columns (Lavius Filmore) have been removed, and that windows and shutters have also been removed and replaced. Specifically at the Champion House 6/6 windows were replaced with 9/1. Society Hall has had additional work that was not within the scope of what was approved. The former Peeler house has also had work done that should have been reviewed by the Commission. Concern was raised that the powers of the commission are not being given appropriate consideration, further it appears to be the work of one particular contractor.

Mr. Brady noted that he has had communication from First Church of Christ regarding the painting that is underway. Fund raising efforts for completion of the work are in progress.

Brief discussion was also held relative to the Brownell Mill. The building is sinking. The poor condition of the building was discussed. It was noted that the site is presently under P&Z

purview as it is not in a historic district, nor is it on the national register. The Commission stated that they would like to have a site walk at the property.

Motion made by Steve Rossi, secodmed by Jack Lovejoy to adjourn at 8:35 p.m. The motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Deb Denette