



# Westport Historic District Commission

Town Hall

Westport, Conn. 06880

## WESTPORT HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION December 12, 2017 DRAFT ACTION MINUTES (Digital Recording of Meeting is Available)

**Members Present:** Chair Randy Henkels, Vice Chair Ed Gerber, Grayson Braun, Alternates Cheryl Bliss and Marilyn Harding

The Westport Historic District Commission held a public hearing at 7:00 p.m. on **Tuesday, December 12, 2017 at 7:00 p.m. in Town Hall, Room 201/201A for the following purposes:**

### PUBLIC HEARING

1. To hear the Chair's report and update on current HDC activities.

**Chair Henkels reported on the following activities:**

- **The National Register Nomination Study of the Bridge Street neighborhood was supported by the State Historic Preservation Review Board. Pending minor revisions to the nomination study, it will be forwarded to the National Park Service for review and listing on the National Register of Historic Places.**
- **The HDC has requested a determination of eligibility for the Lees Canal National Register Historic District.**

2. To approve the minutes of the November 14, 2017 meeting.

**The minutes were unanimously approved as submitted.**

3. To nominate a slate of Officers for 2018.

**The following slate of 2018 officers was nominated: Chair, Randy Henkels, Vice Chair Ed Gerber and Clerk Grayson Braun.**

- ~~4. To review and comment on proposed renovation at 2 Riverside Avenue in the National Hall National Register Historic District.~~

~~WITHDRAWN by the applicant. No action was taken.~~

5. To hear a progress report from the Department of Public Works and discuss findings on the Kings Highway North Bridge over Willow Brook.

**Pete Ratkewich, Deputy Director of Public Works, Bruce Clouette, architectural historian and bridge specialist, and Chad Prekowski, structural engineer made a presentation on the history of the bridge in its setting, the current condition of the bridge, and possible alternative approaches to the rehabilitation of the bridge. They identified the important characteristics of the bridge which included the rustic stone parapets/end piers, the size and scale of the bridge, the stone abutments, and the technological nature of the bridge. Mr. Clouette emphasized that the bridge must meet current use and safety needs. Pete Ratkewich stated that no matter the funding source, the town will meet minimum FHWA standards. Members of the Commission requested the Public Works Department submit comparative renderings of the existing bridge and the proposed bridge. They encouraged a holistic approach to updating the bridge in order to meet modern standards while at the same time sensitive to the historic importance of the bridge in its setting on the edge of a historic district.**

6. To approve a *Certificate of Appropriateness Application* dated November 17, 2017 for the previously removed chimney and the installation of a generator at **43 Evergreen Avenue located in the Evergreen Avenue Local Historic District.**

**Unanimously APPROVED.**

7. To approve a *Certificate of Appropriateness Application* dated November 9, 2017 for the previously installed roof at 3 Caccamo Lane located in the Gorham Avenue Historic District.

**Unanimously Approved.**

8. To approve a *Certificate of Appropriateness Application* dated November 9, 2017 for the installation of a cedar fence at 3 **Caccamo Lane** located in the Gorham Avenue Local Historic District.

**Approved by a vote 4 (yes) Henkels, Gerber, Bliss and Harding and 1 vote (no) Braun**

9. To approve a *Certificate of Appropriateness Application* dated November 28, 2017 for the proposed new construction and driveway, fencing and lighting fixtures at **20 Morningside Drive South** located in the 20 and 26 Morningside Drive South Local Historic District.

**Chair Henkels stated that it is the responsibility of the HDC to review the application (design) in terms of its impact on the character of the local historic district. Based on questions, comments and discussion among the Commission members and the public, it was the sense of the meeting that the five alternative proposals were not appropriate for the district. Because a design was not approved, there was no discussion about the driveway, fencing and lighting fixtures. The chair, with the unanimous support of the members, proposed that the hearing will be continued at the January 9, 2018 meeting. The applicant agreed to present one design for review and approval by the Commission and provide further opportunity for public comment.**

10. To review and comment on proposed signage at **8 Post Road West** located in the National **Hall Historic Design District.**

**Unanimously support the proposed signage.**

11. To review and comment on the proposed partial demolition of the existing historic resource and new construction at **308 Greens Farms Road**, c. 1892, identified on the Historic Resources Inventory.

**Although the historic inventoried property is of interest to the HDC, it will have the opportunity to comment on the proposed demolition if the Building Official determines that the extent of demolition requires a demolition waiver. It is the opinion of the HDC, that it does not have the authority to comment on the proposed design and site plan modifications.**

12. To take such action as the meeting may determine to recommend to the Building Official that the balance of the delay period for a demolition permit at **168 Imperial Avenue** be waived. **Unanimously Approved.**
13. To take such action as the meeting may determine to recommend to the Building Official that the balance of the delay period for a demolition permit at **19 Bauer Place** be waived. **Unanimously Approved.**
14. To take such action as the meeting may determine to recommend to the Building Official that the balance of the delay period for a demolition permit at **27 Fairfield Avenue** located in the Compo Ownenoke Historic National Register District be waived.

DENIED by a vote 4 no (Henkels, Gerber, Braun, Harding) and 1 abstention (Bliss).

15. To take such action as the meeting may determine to recommend to the Building Official that the balance of the delay period for a demolition permit at **20 Minute Man Hill** be waived. **Unanimously Approved.**