

Woodstock Hill Historic District Commission

Regular Meeting - Woodstock Town Hall

Monday, March 28, 2016 8:00 p.m.

Minutes

Attendance: Chair Tim Monahan, Lyn Smith, Gail White Usher, Christine Johnston Lessig, Earl Manz

Community Attendance: Tony Reed, Joe Campbell, and Chris Stanford

1. Call to Order at 8:03 by Chair, Tim Monahan
2. Appointment of alternates: Earl Manz appointed as regular member this evening
3. **Public Hearing:** Continuation:
 - 1) Woodstock Historical Society, WHS, 523 Route 169, for removal of two benches at end of front brick walk. They are not original to the walkway and were installed at a latter time. Through time and weather the walk has become convoluted at an odd angle and uneven, which is a hazard. Benches were taken down due to safety, yet brick walkway will need to be redone. WHS is exploring how to plan this area for future.
 - **Motion** to end hearing by made by Earl Manz and second by Gail White Usher. Unanimous Approval
 - Discussion
 - **Motion** to accept application for removal of benches at WHS front walkway was made by Earl Manz and Lyn seconded by Lyn Smith. Gail Usher White Abstained. Approved and passed
 - 2) Frank and Karen Olah, 546 Route 169, for new front door. No additional information was presented.
 - **Motion** to close hearing by made by Gail White Usher and seconded by Lyn Smith. Unanimous Approval
 - Discussion: At the first public hearing Mr. Olah withdrew his original proposal of a replacement door and was coming back with an alternative because the Commission believed that the change was not in keeping with the Secretary of the Interior's Standards, which prioritize the retention of historic fabric. Tonight Mr. Olah did not return with an alternative within the time constraints of the application. By regulation the Commission must come to a decision. Without specifics our decision has to be to deny the application. Mr. Olah is encouraged to submit a new application. The Commission is very willing to work with Mr. Olah to find an appropriate solution.
 - **Motion** was made by Earl Manz and seconded by Lyn Smith to deny the application due to the changes would not be in keeping with the Secretary of the Interior's Standards as originally presented. Unanimous Approval
4. **Review of Minutes:** February 22, 2016
 - **Motion** was made by Gail Usher White to approve minutes of the February 29, 2016 meeting with a few minor edits and was seconded by Earl Manz. Unanimous approval
Edits: Change the word 'deep' to 'keep' and remove space in front of Selectman

5. Public Comment – none

6. **Project Consultations:**

Chris Stanford presented their building addition plan to the WHDC. The Bicentennial building addition (STEM Building) will not be seen by the road in the historic District except the roof point when there is no foliage. The building project is planned to blend into the historic character of the other buildings on campus. Originally the Bicentennial building project did come before the WHDC, so the commission recommended an application. On April 4th there will be a special meeting at 7 pm for the application for appropriateness for this project.

7. **Correspondence:**

Wednesday, April 6 at the Woodstock Town Hall - Public invitation to view, and share input into, the draft corridor management plan for the Connecticut State Route 169 National Scenic Byway. The draft plan will be available at <http://necog.org/programs-services/route-169-national-scenic-byway-management-plan-update/> not less than one week prior to the scheduled meeting date

8. **Old Business**

- Woodstock Hill Program Discussion: Discussion held - Consensus to move to October walk month and add it to The Last Green Valley's Walktober program.
- Historic District signs: Lynn provided a variety of samples and the group consensus leaned with National Register Bronze sign. Lynn indicated that the National Park Services has a template and volunteered to research the cost and grant support. There would be two signs on Rte. 169 at each end of the district entering in from north and south.
Motion was made by Earl Manz to approve the WHDC to pursue two Bronze National Register signs and Gail White Usher seconded it. Unanimous approval
- New member – Discussion
- Proposed change in meeting times: Discussion - Commission consensus to keep meeting schedule as set for this year and revisit next year in the fall at our October meeting before we need to submit schedule in November to Selectman.

9. **New Business**

- Review of Historic District Commission Regulations: Discussion held and recommendations were made. Edited copy will be sent out before our next meeting.
- Other: Special meeting is set for Monday, April 4 at 7 PM at the Town Hall for a public Hearing on an application for the new addition building project to WA Bicentennial building, which will be the STEM Building.
- Next regular meeting will be Monday, April 25 at 8 PM at the Woodstock Town Hall.

10. **Adjournment** – motion made by Earl Manz and seconded by Gail White Usher. Unanimous Approval. Meeting adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by
Christine Johnston Lessig, Clerk

These minutes may be published but the Commission does not approve them until the next regular meeting.