

**MINUTES  
SPECIAL MEETING  
WINDSOR HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION  
SEPTEMBER 3, 2003 5:45 PM  
ROSE ROOM, TOWN HALL  
275 BROAD STREET, WINDSOR, CONNECTICUT**

Present: Commissioners Watts, Hinckley, Melley, Raney, and Reardon

Also Present: Assistant Town Planner Bachand

Commissioner Watts called the meeting to order at 5:50 PM.

**I. Call to Order – Public Hearings for Certificate of Appropriateness**

Commissioner Watts called the public hearing to order at 5:50 PM.

- a. 236-240 Palisado Avenue – Michael and Lisa Stewart, River Meadow Farm  
Request to install a business sign

Commissioner Watts introduced the applicant, gave a brief overview of the sign proposal, and asked the applicant to speak about the proposal.

The applicant, Michael Stewart, stated that the proposal is for a driveway sign to let people know where River Meadow Farm is located. He said that people are having a great deal of difficulty finding the farm. Mr. Stewart said that he would like his sign to be similar to other signs in the district and be set back at a distance from the road that is visible but not intrusive. He added that the urgency in his request for this approval is due to the dog agility trials that are scheduled at River Meadow Farm later in September. Mr. Stewart requested there be a light shining on the sign at night, although he assured the Commission that it would not be distracting in intensity. He showed the Commission a photo of the proposed sign location, and said that any other existing illuminated numbers would be removed from the property.

Commissioner Melley asked the Mr. Stewart if the lighting would be on a timer, and he said that it can be or he could use a photoelectric cell similar to that which controls the lighting at the Bell School. Commissioner Melley then asked Mr. Stewart if the sign needs to spell out the phrase “Animal Rehabilitation Center” and Mr. Stewart said the animal rehabilitation practice is a secondary component related to the farm and needs to be on the sign.

Commissioner Hinckley stated that she has no objections to the nature of the operation at River Meadow Farm and added that the proposed sign is well designed.

Commissioner Watts said that most existing signs within the district do not conform with the guidelines in regard to size. He said this sign is similar in size to many other signs approved by the Commission, therefore the proposal is reasonable.

Commissioner Hinckley asked Mr. Stewart how his sign compares to the nearby Bell School sign, and he said that it is no larger than the Bell School sign.

Commissioner Watts stressed the importance of tastefulness in sign proposals and believes this proposal is in good taste.

Commissioner Raney said she believes the sign is appropriate for the district.

Assistant Town Planner Bachand noted that staff has reviewed the proposal and there were no objections.

The Commissioners briefly discussed the lighting issue and agreed that it should be operationally similar to the Bell School sign lighting.

Commissioner Watts asked if there were additional questions or comments before closing the public hearing, and there were none.

## **II. Close of Public Hearing**

Commissioner Watts closed the public hearing at 6:12 PM.

## **III. Regular Business Meeting**

### **a. Discussion and Decision on Public Hearing for Certificate of Appropriateness**

There was no further discussion.

**Motion: Commissioner Watts moved to approve the application for Certificate of Appropriateness to install a business sign at 236-240 Palisado Avenue, River Meadow Farm as presented by the applicant for reasons that the essence of the business ties in with the character of the district, and subject to the condition that any sign lighting be of the same intensity and duration as the sign lighting for the Bell School. Commissioner Reardon seconded the motion and it passed unanimously, 5-0-0.**

Commissioner Hinckley commended the applicant for presenting an appealing sign and cooperating with the Commission's requests.

### **b. New Business**

Commissioner Watts said that there are currently two Democrat vacancies on the Historic District Commission, one within the district and one outside of the district. He expects that these vacancies will be filled by sometime in October.

**c. Old Business**

None

**d. Miscellaneous**

None

**IV. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 6:18 PM.

Attest J.B.