

**MINUTES
WINDSOR HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION
SPECIAL MEETING
NOVEMBER 20, 2019
LUDLOW ROOM, TOWN HALL
275 BROAD STREET, WINDSOR, CONNECTICUT**

Present: Commissioner Dupont-Diehl, Commissioner Yeich, Commissioner Raney, and Alternate Commissioners Hinckley and Cassidy

Also Present: **Assistant Town Planner, Todd Sealy**
 Applicant, Amy Cele
 Homeowner, Kevin Doyle

Commissioner Raney opened the meeting at 6:30. The commission decided to reverse the order of the meeting to hear the certificate of appropriateness application first and then review new business last.

I. Public Hearings for Certificate of Appropriateness

A. 101 Palisado – Business sign, First Church of Windsor, Cele

Commissioner Raney read the certificate of appropriateness application for 101 Palisado, The Music School at Sound Crossing, to install a business sign along Palisado Avenue. The sign is 2ft. x 2ft., double sided, made of high density urethane (HDU) with white background and black lettering. Commissioner Raney asked the applicant to state their name and present their case. The applicant Amy Cele, the director of the Music School at Sound Crossing, introduced herself and presented her application. She stated that they moved into the Russell house in January 2018. She stated that they are happy with the location they selected and they wanted to hang a sign in front to represent themselves to the community. They have contacted a sign company to make the sign and carpenter who will make the frame. She submitted some photos showing examples of the post. Commissioner Yeich asked the commission if this sign looked similar to the historical society sign. Commissioner Hinckley stated that sign looks more like the cemetery sign. Commissioner Hinckley stated that she measured the cemetery sign then asked the applicant if the sign could be smaller and what was the location of the sign? Ms. Cele stated that she has a picture on her phone showing the proposed location of the sign and she passed it around to the commission. Commissioner Hinckley stated that the location would make a difference in the size. Amy stated that the sign would be the same distance from the road as the cemetery sign. Commissioner Dupont-Diehl asked what the sign is made of. The applicant stated that the sign is made of HDU which composite resin material made to look like wood. She stated that the sign maker does quite a few historical signs. Commissioner Yeich asked the applicant to explain the size. The applicant stated that she incorrectly listed the height of the post at 77 feet which should have been 77 inches. The width of the sign post is 44 inches total. There was some discussion regarding the measurements of the sign and the post. The applicant stated that she was told by the first church in Windsor that their signs were 2ft by 2ft. Commissioner Hinckley stated that was what she had measured. The commission commented that the sign was beautiful. Commissioner Cassidy asked if the applicant knew the size of the letter. Ms. Cele stated she did not. Commissioner Cassidy stated that she asked because the size of the letters determines the distance you're able to read it and based on your target audience, which could be people walking

by or cars driving. She stated that you don't want the letters to take up too much space on the sign but you also do not want to reduce the size of the letters too much to where you miss your target audience.

Motion: Commissioner Dupont-Diehl moved to approve the application for 101 Palisado for the business sign. Commissioner Yeich seconded the motion and it passed unanimously 5-0-0.

II. New Business

- Minutes October 1st, 2019
- Minutes October 7th, 2019

A. First Church Parking Lot light update

The commission asked the Assistant town planner, Todd Sealy, for an update on the parking lot lights. Mr. Sealy stated that he visited the site last week and took the light meter out to test the lighting levels. He stated that the glass inserts causes the reflection of the light to bounce around the fixture and actually makes the LED fixture visible from every angle. He stated he spoke with a representative of the church, Ken Baranoski, who stated that they were not thrilled with the final results of the fixture. He stated that the church was anxious to get the fixtures installed before the winter and they wanted to know what modifications the commission would approve before installing the fixture. Commissioner Raney asked if it was possible for someone from Connecticut lighting to come out and make a recommendation. Commissioner Hinckley stated that they are already working with a consultant. A homeowner and abutter to the church, Kevin Doyle, stated that he had been a vocal opponent of the lights but that he had also been working with the church to modify the fixtures. He stated that the glass was a nice try but a disappointing result. It takes the most objectionable part of the design and reflects it. He stated that it was his understanding that the church wanted to go back to their previous approval which was the blanking plates, shields, and the color film insert. Commissioner Hinckley stated that she had a bizarre reaction to it, that it creates an interesting pattern. She said it is making an attempt to be more appropriate and that she thought it was ok. Mr. Doyle stated that the top portion of the glass was frosted to reduce the glare. Commissioner Hinckley stated that the lights were not as bright to look at and that the color was softer. Mr. Doyle said it was dimmed with the filters and the glass. He stated that the church was looking to go back to the original approval with the black bands around the fixtures. Mr. Doyle stated that the glass magnified the most objectionable features which was the LED fixture. The glass made the fixture visible from every angle. He stated that the glass was a nice attempt but a dismal failure. Commissioner Yeich asked if the wattage could be lowered? The group stated that the wattage could not be lowered without dimming the light. Commissioner Dupont-Diehl stated that the result was disconcerting that these elements did not work together. Commissioner Hinckley stated that the fixture had moved away from historical accuracy and she was viewing it more as a design feature. Mr. Doyle stated that the church was not happy with the glass inserts and that a few of the neighbors were unhappy with it as well. There was a discussion on the history of the changes that were made to the fixture. Mr. Sealy then stated that the glass insert did bounce light around the glass. It lowered the light levels directly under the fixture and bounced more light further out. Commissioner Dupont-Diehl stated that she wanted to maintain the original conditions of the approval indefinitely to be in compliance. There was a discussion on the modifications and the

approval. The consensus was that the approval was contingent on the commission's approval of the modifications. Mr. Sealy said that this could be considered the second or third trial and that he would report back to the commission once they were installed.

Commissioner Raney and Commissioner Dupont-Diehl had to step out of the meeting. There was a discussion regarding the minutes from the previous meetings.

Motion: Commissioner Yeich moved to approve the Minutes of October 1st and October 7th, 2019 as amended. Commissioner Hinckley seconded the motion and it passed unanimously 3-0-0.

III. Miscellaneous

IV. Adjournment

Motion: Commissioner Yeich made the motion to adjourn at 7:01 p.m., Commissioner Hinckley seconded and it passed unanimously 3-0-0.