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ENFIELD HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION

MINTUES OF A REGULAR MEETING

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 2022 - 7:00 PM
ENFIELD COUNCIL CHAMBERS – ENFIELD TOWN HALL
820 ENFIELD STREET, ENFIELD, CT 06082

Call to Order

Vice Chairman Raymond Gwozdz called the meeting to order at 7:01 PM.

Roll Call

Present for the meeting were: Vice Chairman Raymond Gwozdz, Secretary Nancy Smyth, Commissioner Colleen Reidy, Commissioner Marie Troiano

Absent: Chairman Richard Tatoian, Commissioner Lynda Laureano, Commissioner Linda Fallon (Alt)

Also Present: Ricardo Rachele Zoning Enforcement Officer – Staff Liaison and Alexis Nai, Recording Secretary

Fire Evacuation Announcement

Vice Chairman Gwozdz read the fire evacuation announcement.

Approval of Minutes

- a. May 25, 2022 – Commissioner Reidy motioned to table the minutes. Commissioner Smyth seconded the motion. All were in favor. The minutes were tabled.

Vote: 5-0-0

Old Business

None

Public Participation

None

Reading of Legal Notice

Clerk Smyth Read the legal notice.

Public Hearing(s)

- b. **HDC#486- 1291 Enfield Street-** Application for a Certificate of Appropriateness to install solar panels; Elite Energy Consulting, Applicant; Charles & Dawne Young, Owners; Map 46/ Lot 10; HR-33 Zone.

Charles Young, spoke on behalf of the application. He noted they are trying to lower their energy bill by adding solar panels to their home.

Commissioner Gwozdz noted the Commissioners have the packet and questioned if any of the panels will be facing Enfield Street.

Mr. Young stated 90% will be on the garage and the rest will be south side facing the church. Nothing on the house will be facing the road. He's not sure if the garage is in the historic district because it was built in the 1950's.

Commissioner Gwozdz stated the Historic district encompasses 250 feet from Enfield Street and does not go by the age of the house, but the location of the property. They have houses from the 1700's to the 1980's in the Historic District.

Mr. Rachele stated he measured the property today and the garage would be in the Historic District.

Mr. Young stated some of the panels would be in the front of the garage.

David Raynor, Elite Energy Consulting, showed the site plans to the Commission along with a written formation of the engineering plan.

Mr. Gwozdz questioned when the home was built.

Mr. Young stated the house was built in 1800 and the garage was added in 1950.

Mr. Gwozdz questioned since the house was built in 1800, is there any concern with the weight of the panels?

Mr. Raynor stated it has been addressed in the Engineering write-up.

Commissioner Gwozdz questioned how visible the panels on the front of the garage will be from Enfield Street.

Kevin Young, son of applicant and resident at 1291 Enfield Street, stated the panels are not highly visible due to the trees on the property. As you drive by you can't really see between the church, trees, and their fence. The panels that are on the house will not be visible from the street.

Commissioner Marie Troiano confirmed the panels on the house will be facing the church.

Commissioner Lillian Troiano questioned what would be visible from Enfield Street.

Kevin Young stated you shouldn't see much because they are the low-profile black panels that match the roof which is currently black.

Commissioner Reidy questioned if they could move the panels that are on the front of the garage facing Enfield Street to the back of the garage.

Mr. Raynor stated he would have to consult with the engineering team to see what could be moved.

Mr. Raynor asked what the main concern is.

Commissioner Reidy noted 1800's or 1950's buildings would not have solar panels during those eras, so it's important they are not visible from the street.

Commissioner Gwozdz noted the Historic District Commission built their guidelines and standards from the Department of Interior and the panels need to have minimal impact. They focus on visibility from Enfield Street. The issues they are having is the visibility from Enfield Street. They are open to a redesign. They have had a couple of applications come before the commission and the one they approved had moved the panels, so they were not visible from Enfield Street.

Mr. Raynor said they can take it back to their engineering team to see how they can move them around.

Commissioner Smyth noted they would like to see pictures of the house so they can get a better idea of what would be visible as well.

Mr. Young said he will bring them.

Marie Troiano requested what the solar panels look like on a house.

Mr. Raynor stated they have drone photos he can send over.

Mr. Rachele questioned if they are replacing the roof.

The applicants confirmed they believe they are replacing the shingles.

Mr. Rachele noted they need to add the roof that to the site plan application and send pictures/samples of what the replacement shingles will look like.

The applicants confirmed they will send over the information regarding the roof shingles.

Commissioner Smyth motioned to table HDC#486- 1291 Enfield Street- Application for a Certificate of Appropriateness to install solar panels; Elite Energy Consulting, Applicant; Charles & Dawne Young, Owners; Map 46/ Lot 10; HR-33 Zone. Commissioner Troiano seconded the motion. All were in favor. Vote: 5-0-0

Other Business

Mr. Rachele noted they are planning a Historic District Training Session October 26th which is a current meeting date at 6:00. Enfield would be hosting it for surrounding towns as well. The Commission confirmed the date works.

Correspondence/Enforcement

1162 Enfield Street – Commissioner Marie Troiano noted they received an email from another resident that 1162 removed shutters and additional work was being done.

Mr. Rachele noted the owner reached out to the Town; the shutters were falling town. They were rotting and dilapidated. The owner felt it would bring it to a more historic look if the shutters were removed. He felt it didn't need a Commission review of it but didn't elaborate that additional work was being done.

Another resident sent an email and photograph of the work that was being done. The windows were being encased with aluminum/vinyl. Mr. Rachele checked with the building department, which does not require a building permit for the encasing, only if windows were being replaced. It would be like painting – which does not require HDC approval. Mr. Rachele shared before and after photos of the property with the Commission, which did not appear to be any significant changes other than the shutters being removed.

Commissioner Troiano noted it looked like they were putting vinyl stripping over the existing wood. Mr. Rachele noted he was not sure if there was anything in the regulations that address the windows.

The Commission discussed whether the owner should have come before the Commission. The Commission requested Mr. Rachele send a letter requesting the owner to come in for a certificate of appropriateness for current and future work, along with sending a copy of the handbook to the resident.

Adjournment

Commissioner Reidy motioned to adjourn at 7:42 PM. Commissioner Troiano (Alt) seconded the motion. The meeting stood adjourned.

Vote: 5-0-0

Note: Next Historic District Commission Meeting will be held on October 26, 2022 at 7PM.

By: Richard Tatoian, Chairman

Questions on agenda may be directed to the Planning Office (860) 253-6355

Files are available for review on the website: <https://www.enfield-ct.gov/648/Historic-District-Commission>