

RIDGEFIELD HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION
Lower Level Small Conference Room
Town Hall, 400 Main Street
Ridgefield, CT 06877
August 5, 2024

Policy: Historic District Commission meetings will be conducted under Roberts Rules of Order and all participants are expected to conduct themselves with dignity and treat all those present with respect, empathy and civility.

APPROVED SITE VISIT MINUTES

A site visit of the Ridgefield Historic District Commission (“HDC”) was held at 55 Main Street on Monday, August 5, 2024, at 6:30 p.m.

The following members were present:

Dan O’Brien, Chair
Sean O’Kane, Vice Chair
Mark Blandford (alternate for Rhys Moore)
Sara Kaplan (alternate for Kam Daughters)
Michael Mitchell (alternate for Harriet Hanlon)

AGENDA

- 1) **55 Main Street** – Replacement of existing fence on North and South sides of the house
- 2) **Historic District Signage** – Discussion of proposed design and locations

The meeting was called to order by Mr. O’Brien at 6:26 p.m.

- 1) **55 Main Street – Replacement of existing fence on North and South sides of the house**

Ms. Jamie Chang, property owner, was present. She walked the Commission members to the North side of the fence. Said she was looking at a fence replacement. She showed the square slat picket style fence similar to her neighbor’s fence. She would like a similar styled wood fence, and with a scalloped top. At the end of the North side fence, she mentioned the fence used to continue to the West and end at an oak tree. The tree has long been removed, as well as the West side fence. A wood pile now resides to the West of the fence. She was not looking to add that West fence piece at this time.

Moving back South to the backyard main entrance was a wood scalloped arch. The arch was falling apart. She wanted to replace it with the same style. Passing through the backyard, Ms. Chang showed the South fence. A portion had rotted away allowing easy access for the gardeners. She was looking to replace the single gate close to the house and add a double gate to allow easy access for the gardeners. The current fence was approximately 5 feet high. She was looking to keep the same height.

Ms. Chang mentioned the fence material would be wood, which she would have painted.

Mr. O’Kane and Mr. Blandford said the application was straight forward.

Mr. Blandford moved and Mr. O’Kane seconded a motion to approve the application as presented for the replacement of existing fence on North and South sides of the house. Motion passed 5-0.

2) Historic District Signage – Discussion of proposed design and locations

Mr. O’Brien said upon further reflection, he thought the 20 inches x 30 inches sign was too small. He thought the scale should be more like 3 feet by 2 feet. Mr. O’Kane said that would bring the post to about 10 feet high. Mr. O’Brien said he took a look at the Silver Spring Country Club sign which was 7 ½ feet from the ground.

Mr. O’Brien said another consideration was the lettering color. Mr. Blandford said he liked the black lettering and white background. Mr. Mitchell and Ms. Kaplan agreed. Mr. O’Brien said he could have Josh Fisher, a graphic artist, do a mockup with the bigger sign.

Mr. O’Kane said it was important to minimize the post height. Mr. Mitchell said the bigger sign with bigger font would be best for visibility. Mr. Blandford suggested the two size versions be done. Mr. O’Kane also mentioned a little detail to the base of the post would make it look nice.

Mr. O’Brien asked about thoughts on the chain. Mr. Blandford mentioned eye hooks could be used. After some discussion, it was agreed that removing the hump, where the Ridgefield seal was placed should be relocated on the sign. Mr. O’Kane said the seal would look better in the middle. Simplified the look.

Mr. O’Brien said they were doing four signs at this time. Two each for Ridgebury and Main Street. Ms. Kaplan said a site visit would be helpful. Mr. O’Brien said he was not concerned about the sign placement at Ridgebury. However, Mr. O’Brien said the signs for Main Street would be challenging. He had begun the State application which was quite involved. He asked the Commissioners to walk the area for their thoughts on where the two signs should be posted on Main Street. They would discuss at a future date.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:58 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy L. Fields
Recording Secretary