

RIDGEFIELD HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION
Town Hall, 400 Main Street
Ridgefield, CT 06877
March 10, 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 AND SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES

A Site Visit and Special Meeting of the Ridgefield Historic District Commission (“HDC”) was held at 127 Main St, Ridgefield, CT 06877, on Sunday, March 10, 2024 and beginning at 11:30 a.m.

The following members were present:

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

AGENDA

127 Main Street

- Reinstall original porch railings with additions to extend columns’ length
- Add new handrails to porch stairs
- Replace handrails and post on second floor with replica of original

The site visit was called to order by Mr. O’Brien at 11:36 a.m. Ms. Nadia Blair was present.

Mr. Dan O’Brien distributed copies of the updated porch restoration plans.

Ms. Blair said they would be reusing the existing/partially original railings with added new gooseneck details at the end. This was because while the original railings were 28”, they needed to be 36” to allow for handrails to be installed due to current building code. Further, this additional length would allow the railings to reach the columns properly and have a visually smoother appearance.

Mr. O’Kane asked if the existing porch columns were original. Ms. Blair said they were replicas, not original. As the columns failed, they would be replaced with wood material. The porch decking being installed was either cedar or mahogany wood, which were original materials used. Mr. O’Kane said they were doing a great job. Ms. Blair said the porch baseboard was also getting replaced. Mr. O’Kane suggested that at the bottom, consider black screening to keep animals out.

Ms. Blair is also looking to replace the upper balcony railings and newel posts with railings to 36". This was the appropriate height for safety and current code requirements. At the same time, they would be restoring the design of these elements to their original design, as found on a postcard featuring their house.

Ms. Kaplan moved and Mr. O’Kane seconded a motion to approve the application as presented to (1) reinstall original porch railings with a gooseneck addition to extend length to columns; (2) add new handrails to stairs on porch that will match style of original, but at 36- inch height; and (3) replace handrails and newel posts on second floor porch balcony with replicas of originals, at appropriate height for safety/building code. Motion passed 5-0.

Meeting was adjourned at 11:46 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy L. Fields
Recording Secretary