



TOWN OF FAIRFIELD
Town Hall — Fairfield, Conn.
FAIRFIELD HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION

APPROVED MINUTES

May 20, 2010
Special Meeting

The Fairfield Historic District Commission met on Thursday, May 20, 2010 at 4:30 p.m. in the Second Floor Conference Room of Old Town Hall, 611 Old Post Road, Fairfield, Connecticut.

ATTENDANCE

Present: Commissioners Henry Backe, Bruce Graham, Tim Smith and Margaret Browning
Alternates Tom Dailey and Adam Klyver

Absent: Commissioner Ellen Gould

Henry Backe will be acting chairman.

Alternate sequence: Dailey, Klyver

Henry called the special meeting to order at 4:35.

The special meeting was noticed in the Fairfield Citizen News on Wednesday May 12, 2010.

SHOW CAUSE HEARING

1. Dwight and Roma Fanton, 39 Meeting House Lane, Fairfield

- a) alleged violation: failure to remove Belgian Block edging, denied by the Fairfield Historic District Commission on October 8, 2009.

Dwight Fanton, homeowner presented his case. He stated that this was his third appearance before the commission. In October 2001 he appeared in answer to an order to comply that was issued and received on October 01, 2001. There was no resolution during this appearance. A new violation letter was issued on August 24, 2009. On October 8, 2009 he presented an application for a certificate of Appropriateness for the curbing. It was denied by the commission. He stated that in order to remove the Belgian Block, the driveway would be destroyed. He offered to plant ground cover to hide the curbing. He asked the commission why Belgian Block is so objectionable. He also stated that he was unaware that Belgian Block was unacceptable. Henry Backe stated that had the Fantons applied prior to the installation of the Belgian Block, they would have been aware that it was unacceptable. He also questioned why they ignored the decision rather than appeal it.

Bruce Graham stated that Belgian Block is not historically appropriate and the appropriateness is what the Commission uses to govern their decisions. He also stated that the commission cannot consider plantings when making their decision. They are temporary, not permanent.

MOTION: Bruce Graham made a motion to uphold the Show Cause and give the owner 90 days in which to comply after which a \$100 per day fine will be incurred. Also on the 91st day, the violation will be placed on the Fairfield land records.

Second by Thomas Dailey. Motion carried unanimously. Voting: Henry Backe, Bruce Graham, Tim Smith, Margaret Browning and Thomas Dailey.

2. Matthew and Susan Rush, 224 Old Post Road, Fairfield

a) alleged violation: failure to remove Belgian Block edging, denied by the Fairfield Historic District Commission on September 11, 2003. **Continued from April 15, 2010.**
No one was present to represent the homeowners.

MOTION: Bruce Graham made a motion to uphold the Show Cause and give the owner 90 days in which to comply after which a \$100 per day fine will be incurred. Also on the 91st day, the violation will be placed on the Fairfield land records.

Second by Margaret Browning. Motion carried unanimously. Voting: Henry Backe, Bruce Graham, Tim Smith, Margaret Browning and Adam Klyver.

RECESS

A short recess was called at 5:00.

Meeting resumed at 5:05.

The commissioners discussed the fact that the Historic District Handbook contained information on the prohibition of Belgian Block at the time that the above properties installed it. They also stated that in fairness to those that have removed Belgian Block, they must continue to deny its installation and vote for its removal in cases such as the two show cause hearings heard this evening.

SHOW CAUSE VOTE

Pieter Van Munching, 75 Meeting House Lane, Fairfield

a) alleged violation: failure to submit drawings for approved flagpole showing alternate material, size and location as stipulated in the approval on August 13, 2009. Violation letter issued on October 2, 2009.

MOTION: Henry Backe made a motion to uphold the Show Cause and give the owner 90 days in which to comply after which a \$100 per day fine will be incurred. Also on the 91st day, the violation will be placed on the Fairfield land records.

Second by Tim Smith. Motion carried unanimously. Henry Backe, Bruce Graham, Tim Smith, Margaret Browning and Adam Klyver voting.

Tom Dailey congratulated Kathy Polifka, secretary on her retirement and thanked her for her years of service.

Tim Smith made a motion to adjourn at 5:15. Second by Margaret Browning. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted

Kathy Polifka
Recording Secretary