



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

WORK MEETING APPROVED MINUTES

FEBRUARY 17, 2011

The Fairfield Historic District Commission met on Thursday, February 17, 2011 at 4:30 p.m. in the Second Floor Conference Room of Old Town Hall, Old Post Road, Fairfield, Connecticut.

ATTENDANCE :

Present: Commissioners Ellen Gould, Timothy Smith and Peter Petron.

Absent: Commissioners Henry Backe and Margaret Browning
Alternates Adam Klyver and Thomas Dailey

CALL TO ORDER:

Ellen Gould, Chairman called the meeting to order at 4:37 p.m.

Mrs. Gould requested that the Commission consider additional changes to the handbook. The last work session focused on Listing of Historical Properties and Maps. The discussion focused on the Southport District expansion to include Spruce Street. The histories should be blended to make one new chapter. Peter Petron asked several questions on the conditions needed to be met in order to add properties to the historic districts.

The following discussion centered around Mr. Petron's concern about making educated votes on applications. He questioned whether commissioners could meet informally to discuss the merits of an application. Mrs. Gould told him that the commissioners are not allowed to meet informally since 3 members constitute a quorum which requires a public hearing. One member may answer another member's questions but members are not allowed to try to influence each others decisions. Mr. Patron felt that the input of architects was helpful in making educated decisions. Mr. Petron questioned as to whether outside advisors could be brought in to guide the commission. According to Mrs. Gould, the commissioners must do their own research and may asked pertinent questions at public hearings and then all members may consider the hearing presentation. Mrs. Gould stated that the commissioners are allowed to ask the applicant to provide more information if they feel that it is necessary to make a decision. Mrs. Gould stated that the commission is allowed to call on an expert during a show cause hearing.

Mrs. Gould told the commission that if she receives more calls regarding the Historical Link to the Town Website, she will inform the First Selectman of the confusion.

Mr. Smith stated that the commission should be known for certain elements of consistency. Several of these elements should be Belgian Block, walls and edging. Mrs. Gould stated that just because a material is historic, it doesn't necessarily mean that it is appropriate. Mrs. Gould also questioned as to whether the commission wants to see all of the Historic Districts paved with such things as patios and driveways.

ADJOURNMENT:

A motion was made by Mr. Smith to adjourn at 5:45 p.m.. Second by Peter Petron. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kathy Polifka
Recording Secretary