



Town of Colchester, CT

127 Norwich Avenue, Colchester, Connecticut 06415

HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION
Regular Meeting
Monday, March 13, 2022
Town Hall Room 2

Minutes

RECEIVED
COLCHESTER, CT
2023 MAR 15 PM 1:59
Gayle Furman
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TOWN CLERK

Members Present: E. Sharon, Chairman, T. Congdon, S. Stefanowicz, H. J. Smith

Absent: L. Akerman, R. Kvederas

Also Present: A. Lago, ZEO, D. Turner, BOS Liaison, D. Sorrentino, Planning Director

1. Call to Order – 7:00 pm
2. Additions to Agenda – E. Sharon changed the order of agenda items 4 and 5. Under #7 Old Business, E. Sharon added an update on signs for the Historic District.
3. Minutes of Previously Held Meeting – Motion by T. Congdon to approve minutes. 2nd by S. Stefanowicz. ***Vote was unanimous, motion carried.***
4. Public Hearings –
 - a. **Certificate of Appropriateness - COA 2023-001** – of the Town of Colchester Planning & Zoning Department for (1) maintenance of the gazebo on the Town Green; (2) removal of the existing utility closet, utility pole and light located southerly of the gazebo and installation of new electrical utility appurtenances. – Members discussed the gazebo that was originally built in the 1930's. In the 1990's, the wood around the lower portion of the gazebo was removed and the black metal railing was put in. The roof is the only existing portion of the original gazebo. D. Sorrentino went over the current problems and need for maintenance. The rusted railings, columns and supports will be sandblasted and repainted black. The wood support beams have a lot of graffiti and are chipped and rotting. They will be replaced as well as the soffit, fascia boards and wood sheathing. An estimated 30% of the roof rafters will need to be replaced. There is water damage due to lack of flashing and drip edge. The electrical closet next to the gazebo is in disrepair. The contents should be moved into a more modern, safe metal cabinet. The contents of the closet are not known at this time. D. Sorrentino will contact Public Works to find out. There is \$20,900 in remaining grant funds. The project would need an additional \$30,000 in funding to meet the low bid that was accepted of \$51,800.

- Arthur Liverant, Bacon Academy Board of Trustees, spoke about the desire to “get it right” when renovating the gazebo. He spoke about the original design and shared photos of the former structure. He inquired about possible alternate funding sources that could be found to fund a whole redesign of the gazebo. He did not feel the town should put money into this maintenance plan. He would like to see the electrical components moved under the new structure of a redesigned gazebo and the current electrical closet removed entirely.

- Andrew Norton, Bacon Academy Board of Trustees, asked questions about the funding for the project

- Jamie Noel, Noel’s Plaza, asked about funding from the grant and if it is not used will it be lost. He thinks it is a good idea to perform this maintenance rather than doing nothing.

- A. Liverant wants the town to obtain a quote for the development of architectural drawings of a proposed new gazebo design to look like it did when it was first built.

Members discussed their feelings about the current components that make up the gazebo. E. Sharon is unhappy with the lally columns that support the gazebo roof. Members were not in consensus about if the maintenance should be done.

D. Sorrentino commented that this maintenance is a fix that can be done now to preserve what we have until something better is funded by the town. Although the Commission doesn’t like the gazebo in it’s current state, these needed repairs will at least make the gazebo look cleaner and newer.

Possible funding options discussed were other grants, fundraisers and having the town allocate funding in the next budget to complete the redesign project.

5. Five Minute Session for Public –

6. New Applications – None

7. Old Business – update on signs for Historic District. T. Congdon shared an image of a new sign.

8: New Business

9. Communications

10. Adjournment – Motion to adjourn by S. Stefanowicz, 2nd by T. Congdon. ***Vote was unanimous, meeting adjourned at 8:35 pm.***