

WHDHP Commission Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, October 9, 2012

- I. Chairman Foltz called the meeting to order at 7:35PM with Commissioners Foltz, Taylor, Fawcett, Foster, Whitten present; Alternates Taylor and Whitten were both seated. Rachel Matthews, Wilton Building Department was also present.
- II. Motion to approve the September meeting minutes was made by Foster and seconded by Whitten.
- III. Ongoing Business
 - A. Demolition delays:
 1. 215 Belden Hill Road: WHDHPC requested 90 day delay
 2. 45 Belden Hill Road: Architect had informed WHDHPC of intent to demo 510 sq ft in the back of the home, but if visible from public right of way. Architect was advised that a CofA would need to be filed.
 - B. Discussion about interface between Wilton Building Department and WHDHPC included:
 1. Request for contact information (email) to be listed on town website for citizens to contact the chairperson with any questions regarding historic properties or districts. Commissioner Fawcett will ask the town IT person to create a generic email for the WHDHP Chairperson.
 2. 50 year rule was discussed (ordinance that requires WHDHP Commission to review all demo requests for buildings/structures more than 50 years old). Rachel reported this rule was set in 1998. Many mid-century homes, not necessarily considered historic fall into this time-period. Commissioners discussed the possibility of changing this to 75 years.
 3. The ordinance was revised at least once in the past. Rachel reviewed the ordinance prior to the meeting and said that it may

be time to update and clarify the ordinance again, clean-up language, and perhaps change the 50 year rule to 75.

4. Path of demo request was outlined by Rachel as follows:
 - a. Apply for building/demo permit
 - b. Look at field card for year built, Historic district list, and Architectural Surveys
 - c. Put notice of intent in paper and post sign
 - d. Notify WHDHP Commission if older than 50 years
 - e. WHDHP Commission either recommends 90 day delay or not based on historical value
 - f. Building department is not comfortable making the determination on the 90 day delay (safety issues, how to determine historical value versus sentimental value)
5. Rachel agreed to review and draft an update for review.
Commissioners thanked Rachel for her time and expertise.

C. Informational Materials / Short Brochure:

Commissioner Foster is working on updating the Brochure

- D. Historic District 2 potential expansion: Commissioner Foltz has drafted a follow-up letter for the neighbors and will distribute with the Public Hearing and Meeting Minutes during which the potential expansion was discussed.

There being no further business meeting was adjourned at 9PM.

Respectfully submitted by,

Colleen Fawcett, Clerk